



Thursday, September 22, 2016

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AMPUTEE TOLD TO QUIT CENTRE

Report by David Banner

A TRIPLE amputee was told to leave a trampolining centre in case she injured others.

Ellie Bishop – who is an award-winning trampolinist – felt humiliated when she was asked to leave Flip Out in Oldbury, which has been open for just a few weeks, after the manager told her she could not be ‘in control’.

Centre bosses have since apologised to the teenager.

The 16-year-old from Rowley Regis lost both her legs, her right arm and three fingers on her left hand after contracting meningitis when she was just five years old.

But determined Ellie fought on and returned to horse riding and trampolining and even went on to win awards.

She says she was ‘completely embarrassed’ after being forced to leave the trampolining centre.

Ellie, who has just started college, said: ‘I felt discriminated against. The manager was shouting at me in front of everyone, saying that if I have no feet, I cannot bounce.’

Ellie had even signed a waiver before getting on the trampoline, accepting any responsibility for injuries she might sustain. But she was told she was ‘likely to injure herself or others’ as she couldn’t be ‘in control’ and was asked to leave after she’d already been there for an hour. Ellie and her friends left but only Ellie was given her £10 back.

Ellie said: ‘The company should have said if they had an issue with me being an amputee. They did it after I’d already been there an hour and said it in front of loads of customers.’

Ellie’s mother, Karen Dunnaway, contacted Flip Out who then offered refunds for the entire party.

Izzy Hussein, of Flip Out, said: ‘We’d like to apologise to Ellie as Flip Out prides itself on being inclusive and offering activities which everyone can enjoy. All customers can be assured that safety is our number one priority and we strive to ensure that everyone who visits can enjoy all of the activities in a safe environment.

‘The day of Ellie’s visit was particularly busy, due to an opening promotion. The manager was concerned that Ellie was in the extreme free running area, which is for advanced users, and identified the potential for her and other customers to be injured. We’d like to offer complimentary sessions to Ellie and her family and very much hope she will visit us again at Flip Out Sandwell.’



Ellie Bishop

FUNDRAISER TO HELP BOY WALK ON HIS OWN



Fire crew commander Dominic Rose and Jim and Isabelle Southall enjoy the fundraising event at Haden Cross Fire Station

A MOTHER has paid tribute to the firefighters who organised an open day which raised more than £1,000 towards a life-changing operation for her son.

James Hughes, aged six, has cerebral palsy and spastic diplegia which means he needs help walking.

The Blackheath Primary School pupil’s family have so far raised £18,000 towards an operation which will cost around £40,000.

Firefighters from Haden Cross Fire Station organised an open day to further boost the fundraising total.

Watch Commander Temple Jones said: ‘It really well and there was a good turnout even though the weather wasn’t great – it was raining all day.’

‘We raised £730 on the day but will have more than that as a member of the public has come forward to say he will match half of whatever we have raised – so that takes it over £1,000.’

James’s mother Cheryl, 35, thanked the firefighters for their support. She said: ‘It was a really good event – the firefighters’ demonstrations were fantastic. It was brilliant.’

‘We need all the help we can get with the fundraising and we still need to raise quite a lot of money. The day was great and James really enjoyed it, he had a great time, bless him.’

The operation, a selective dorsal rhizotomy will reduce the spasticity in James’s muscles, giving him more mobility. The operation could allow him to walk without the aid of his frame.

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Court site apartments set to go ahead

AROUND 30 apartments on the former site of Halesowen Magistrates Court look poised for approval – three years after the building was demolished.

Ruskin Properties is on the verge of winning approval for a three-storey housing block on the site of the old magistrates court, which stood at the junction of Queensway and Laurel Lane.

A total of 30 two-bedroom flats with 42 parking spaces have been recommended for approval after fears over coal mine workings in the area were overcome.

Developers have promised a 'stylish, modern development' to replace the 1970s court building

which was demolished in 2013. Halesowen Magistrates Court closed in 2011 with the loss of around 70 jobs after being among several court buildings across the Midlands which were axed as part of Government cuts.

The plans were lodged with Dudley Council in February, with plans set to get the rubber stamp of approval in the coming weeks.

Halesowen Councillor Hilary Bills said: "It is good to see the land finally being put to some use and this moving forward. It will be great to have people living so close to the town centre as it will get them into our shops too."

A statement with the plans states: "The pro-

posed development would make a positive contribution to local character and the distinctiveness of the area. The proposals would result in a high quality residential development."

"The provision of contemporary design is considered appropriate in that the opposite side of Queensway is dominated by modern buildings, as is the adjoining police station."

The plans had been thrown into doubt in April after the Coal Authority raised an objection over potential hazards there. But the authority later withdrew its objection to the development following a satisfactory inspection.

Six objections were received from residents.

Rat droppings and mould – restaurant gets £7k fine

THE OWNERS of an Indian restaurant have been handed a court bill of more than £7,000 after an inspection uncovered mouldy walls and rat droppings under a sink.

Dudley Council took action after an inspection in August 2015 at Pedro's Indian Cuisine in Market Street, King-swinford.

A dead rat was found in the side alleyway, while droppings were discovered among filthy conditions in the kitchen, where the floor and walls were dirty and mouldy. Food storage containers were also dirty and rotting coriander and cauliflower was found in a fridge.

Staff had been given no food hygiene training and an adequate food safety management system was not in place.

Pedro's Fine Eatery pleaded guilty to eight offences under food hygiene and safety regulations at Dudley Magistrates Court. They were fined £5,000 and ordered to pay costs of £2,216 and £120 victim surcharge.

In a separate case, the New Chicken Hut in Brierley Hill was dealt with after inspectors found dirty floors, walls, basins and fridges at the High Street takeaway. Equipment including a frying basket and chopping boards was damaged. Staff there had not been trained and there was no adequate food safety management system.

Boss Naeem Khan pleaded guilty to seven offences under food hygiene and safety regulations at Dudley Magistrates Court. He was fined £300, ordered to pay £1,750 costs and a surcharge of £20.

Man is arrested by armed police

ARMED police were called to a Dudley town centre street amid reports of a man brandishing a gun.

Police were called to North Street just after 11.25am last Wednesday (September 15) after reports of a man with an alleged firearm.

West Midlands Police spokesman Kate Baker said: "Armed officers cordoned off the road and shortly after arrested a 28-year-old man on suspicion of possession of a firearm. No one was injured in the incident."

An employee from Edward Gray Of Dudley Ltd, in North Street, said: "It was about noon when there was a load of police at the bottom end of the road. The road was cordoned off but it cleared shortly after. A few of our workers went outside to see what was going on."

Car and bike in Queensway collision

A CRASH involving a bike and car caused traffic chaos in Halesowen.

The incident took place on Queensway just after 8.30am on Monday.

No one was injured.

Traffic backed up from Hagley Road towards Grange Road.

Ambitious plans for jobs, shops and flats

Springboard to success for Kristian



Star student – Olympian Kristian Thomas at the Walsall campus of the University of Wolverhampton

OLYMPIC medal-winning Black Country gymnast Kristian Thomas has launched a new stage in his career – as he starts a degree at the University of Wolverhampton's Walsall campus.

The 27-year-old, who won bronze in London 2012 and came seventh in the floor final at Rio, will be turning his thoughts to academia when he begins a BSc (Hons) Strength and Conditioning course.

Kristian, who trains with Earls Gymnastics club in Halesowen,

will start at the Institute of Sport this month.

The Wolverhampton sportsman, who now lives near Cannock, has been awarded a scholarship by the University to support his sporting career.

He will use the support to assist with attending domestic and international competitions and sports equipment. After a short break, Kristian plans to continue with his competitive gymnastic career.

He said: "I'm going to be be

starting at the University of Wolverhampton at the end of this month over the next three years. It's an exciting time, something new and different but the support I've had from the uni is second to none."

"Doing strength and conditioning is a career path I've been looking into for some time. I work with the coaches on a daily basis whether its injury rehab or conditioning programmes so its something I want to be involved with."

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Thief jailed after bid to sell stolen Xbox console

A PROLIFIC thief caught red-handed trying to sell stolen property has been locked up for 20 months.

Lee Bastable offered an Xbox for sale to staff at a shop in the Merry Hill Shopping Centre on March 21, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

When the games console's serial number was checked it was found to have been stolen during a break-in at a house three days earlier and the police were called, explained Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

The 33-year-old defendant was arrested and a search of his home unearthed electrical equipment taken during another burglary.

In addition, Bastable was later identified through CCTV footage taken at a store in Blackheath on February 16 where he unsuccessfully tried to sell a laptop and camera that had been taken in a burglary earlier the same day.

Screwdriver

The defendant had also been seen on January 31 attempting to break into a house in Beeches Road, Blackheath, using a screwdriver found in a garden shed.

He gave up and fled after realising he had been spotted by a neighbour who later identified him as the culprit.

Bastable, of Frederick Court, Highgate Road, Walsall pleaded guilty to handling stolen property and to attempted burglary and was jailed by Judge Marcus Tregigas-Davey.

Tribute show for organist Brian

A CONCERT will take place to remember Dudley organist Brian Sharp, who died earlier this year. Mr Sharp made regular appearances on BBC Radio 2 and was part of the house band on TV show Pebble Mill at One and Saturday Night at the Mill.

The event will be at the Mercure Kidderminster Hotel, in Habberley Road, Bewdley, on Monday at 8pm with proceeds to the Deanesby Centre Trust at New Cross Hospital.

The concert will feature organists Howard Beaumont, from the Spa Complex in Scarborough; Jean Martyn, of Britain's Got Talent fame; Byron Jones, from Bristol; and Stourbridge's David Ingle. Tickets £10 will be available on the night. Call George Ingle on (01384) 274500.

End of summer event at park

THE Friends of Wollescote Park are holding an End of Summer Fayre on Saturday at the park from 11am to 3pm. The event is free admission and will feature stalls, tombola, raffle, barbecue and other refreshments.

Calls for action on high stakes betting



Betting terminals at a bookmaker's

CALLS have been made for stricter regulations on the use of betting machines after it emerged that the region's punters had gambled away more than £45 million over the last year.

Figures from the Campaign for Fairer Gambling (CFG) show more than £226 million was gambled in the region's betting shop machines in 2015, with losses amounting to more than £123,000 a day.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood said: "The figures regarding how much cash is put into these machines are

frightening. This sort of high stakes gambling has a huge impact on a number of social issues and can obviously lead to debt."

"We need a review as quickly as possible to make sure stricter regulations are brought in to restrict the damage that people can cause by using these machines."

Tory MP Mr Wood also called for devolution plans for the West Midlands to include powers for communities to determine whether new bookmakers are allowed to open.

The CFG has called for a reduction in stakes on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOTBs), which currently allow punters to bet up to £100 every 20 seconds.

Councillor Steve Eling, leader of Sandwell Council, said: "There simply must be more regulation."

Peter Craske, from the Association of British Bookmakers, said that the vast majority of customers bet responsibly. "We understand there are a minority of people that could be considered to have a problem, but we have brought in a number of measures to address that," he added.

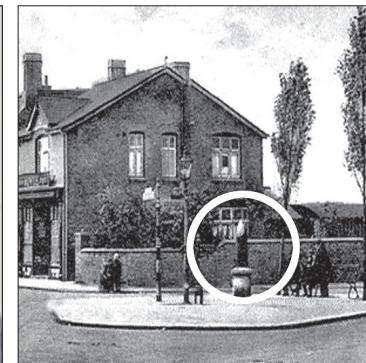
Councillor sends in the artillery to improve area



Ambition – Councillor Stuart Henley's impression of how the decorated shell could look when in place



Councillor Stuart Henley aims to enhance Shell Corner



Shell Corner in 1933 with the artillery shell circled

A FUNDRAISING campaign has been started by a councillor to bring an artillery shell to a well-known traffic island named after a First World War artefact – nearly 80 years since the original was removed.

Councillor Stuart Henley is hoping to raise £3,000 for the shell to be placed on a planter near Shell Corner in Halesowen.

He hopes it will be in place for Remembrance Sunday, with a celebratory event also on the cards.

The original artillery shell had stood on the traffic island from 1924 to 1937. But the landmark disappeared after the island was altered in the late 1930s.

Councillor Henley said: "We are trying to get a planter for it to fit in and then have seats around the edge so that people can reflect."

"We reckon that will cost more than £1,000 but could be more depending on the council figures. Around £3,000 would cover the whole costs."

"We ideally wanted it to be on the island but now we aim for it to be on the corner of Maple Road by the slip road to the shops."

Positive

The planter would go on the corner by Maple Road near the shops if it goes ahead.

He continued: "I have had positive feedback from the area since the idea came about."

"A lot of shop owners are backing it because we need something positive like this in the area as it has been run down the past few years."

"I have drawn up a rough sketch of what it would look like and started the fundraising page – every little bit would help."

The area was originally known as 'The Junction' before becoming 'Shell Corner'.

In its heyday, post-war, it had three butchers, a grocer, bakers and two ladies' and men's hairdressers, with a strong community spirit.

However, in recent years it has been blighted by drug crime and vandalism. A flower planting campaign was started earlier this year to help brighten up the area and discourage anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Henley said: "We are always on the lookout to brighten up Shell Corner as best we can. So far I have got the shell donated by a bomb squad in Essex, paint donated by Johnstone's paints and artwork will be done by Halesowen College. Bringing this shell to the area will help remind people of the history of the area and help brighten it up."

To give a donation towards the project visit the crowdfunding page at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunder/ShellCornerCommunityProject

NEWS IN BRIEF

National pet show on way to the NEC

THE National Pet Show is coming to Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre in November.

The exhibition over the weekend of November 5 and 6 will feature many animal experts and TV celebrities. These will include Channel 4's Super Vet Professor Noel Fitzpatrick, presenting the Eukanuba Superpet Live, and BBC's Spring and Autumn Watch presenter Michaela Strachan, hosting SuperDogs Live.

Adult tickets are priced at £17 and child tickets at £12. See www.thenationalpetshow.com website.

Youth Parliament pops up in Dudley

YOUNG people are being invited to have their say at a 'Pop up Parliament' event coming to Dudley town centre on Saturday.

The event in Market Place will be hosted by the Dudley Youth Council as part of a national youth consultation called 'Make your Mark', organised by the UK Youth Parliament to find out what young people want their representatives to focus on.

The 'Pop up Parliament' runs from 10am to 4pm. Anyone aged 11 to 18 can take part. For further details contact Darren Foley (01384) 815174.

Potential new teachers sought

POTENTIAL future teachers are invited to an open morning in Halesowen early in November.

A Government teaching school, based at Lutley Primary School in Halesowen, is holding the event on Tuesday, November 8, from 9.15am to 12.30pm.

It comes after applications open for teacher training on October 18.

For further details go to the www.lutley.dudley.sch.uk website.

Coffee, cake and music at church fundraiser

A CONCERT with coffee and cake event will take place at a Halesowen church on Saturday.

The musical morning will be held at St John's Church, in High Street, from 10.15am.

Instrumentalists will play a programme of light music featuring the cello, flute, violin and piano.

Refreshments including coffee and cake will be provided afterwards.

Money raised by the event will go towards supporting the church.

Gas work closes road

A ROAD near Halesowen College will be closed for a month during work to replace gas mains.

Work is being carried out on Fairmile Road, near the college, and the road is anticipated to remain closed until October 14.

Diversions will be in place.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

AS the row over grammar schools rages on, it occurs to me that the five Rhodes Boys – I was the second of five sons – must have been a rare thing among the education statistics. All five of us passed the 11-plus to grammar school but not one of us went to university.

I TAKE issue, too, with one of the many questions from original 11-plus papers now being reprinted in the newspapers: "How many thirds are there in nine?" The "correct" answer is 27 and I can see why. But if you take the view that everything, from a sack of coal to a 1,000-metre race, is made up of three thirds then there are three thirds in nine, each third being three. I may have passed my 11-plus but I managed to fail maths O-level three times.

MONDAY: David Cameron stands down as an MP, saying he does not want to be a "distraction" to MP Theresa May. Wednesday: the Commons foreign affairs committee criticises the Cameron government for its intervention in Libya. There may be a connection. And yet how many politicians and pundits who are now castigating Cameron and drawing wild comparisons with Blair's war on Iraq were leading the "we must do something" campaign back in 2011? Remember the pitiful images of terrified Libyan children appealing to the world to help? A massacre in Benghazi seemed imminent. How could we not intervene? Action was approved by the United Nations. Hindsight is always crystal-clear.

I INTERVIEWED Cameron a few times. He struck me as an essentially decent man who answered straight questions with far straighter answers than some politicians I could mention.

THERE is a serious purpose to my trip to Yorkshire. Exactly 100 years ago, my grandfather's brother, 20-year-old Private Alvin Smith, was in a front-line trench on the Somme. It was the last day of his life. A century on, in his home village, we will remember him.

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Shirt over head robber jailed after crime spree

A DRUG addict who raided two bookmakers and a supermarket during a four-day crime spree, and terrified staff who believed he had a gun, has been jailed for six years.

Serial thief Michael Webb had workers running for cover as he burst into two William Hill bookmakers in Stourbridge and also got away with £600 cash from a Sainsbury's, a judge heard. Webb, aged 37, went into the stores holding up an item covered by a carrier bag, which he led staff to believe was a gun – he later said it was just a rolled up newspaper.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how he targeted William Hill in Wollaston at around 9pm on August 12. The robber demanded the man working behind the counter fill up his bag with cash. Believing Webb to have a gun, the worker fled from the counter to a back office and called the police.

Ms Joanne Barker, prosecuting, told the court that Webb, who has racked up 19 convictions and had been given a suspended prison sentence for burglary three days earlier, then abandoned the robbery attempt.

He tried his luck again less than an hour later at Sainsbury's Wollaston and this time was successful.

Ms Barker said: "He ran into the store with his shirt over his head and again demanded money. The assistant activated the alarm and, believing the defendant had a gun, complied with his demands."

By Richard Guttridge

Three days later, at around 9pm, Webb tried to get his hands on more money at William Hill in Amblecote but was again thwarted. This time he had socks covering his hands and arms to cover his distinctive tattoos, the court heard.

Again, the raider held up a bag, which the frightened man behind the counter believed had a gun inside. But after the worker ran to an office, Webb was unable to get past the glass screen and left empty-handed.

Webb, of Kingsway, Wollaston, who the court heard was a cocaine addict, was caught after stealing a pack of razor blades from a Tesco store. He was found in possession of a kitchen knife in Birmingham Street, Stourbridge.

Webb pleaded guilty to robbery, two counts of attempted robbery, theft and possession of an article with a blade or point.

Plants removed from landmark



A cherry picker is used to remove buddleia from the cone

PLANTS which sprouted from the sides of the Black Country's famous Red House Glass Cone are being removed after it emerged they were damaging the landmark.

Contractors are on the verge of being signed for the £27.8 million very light rail complex at Dudley's Castle Hill. Council chiefs have promised the 'world class' centre will create 225 jobs, 331 apprenticeships and 33 new businesses by 2021.

The route of the very light rail will run from this centre through Dudley Tunnel before terminating close to Cinder Bank.

News of the centre's opportunities have been revealed in papers due to come before Dudley Council's cabinet meeting. The document states: "The project will create a world class research, development and educational centre focussed on the creation of innovative

Very Light Rail vehicles on land in the ownership of the Council at Castle Hill. The centre, requiring the use of test track facilities, would be ideally situated adjacent to the mothballed freight line.

Maintaining it is not only important for the cone's long-term structural integrity but also for civic pride in this impressive structure, which continues to be a popular visitor attraction and creative business hub."

The weeds and plants grow from seeds which become airborne and lodge in the cone's brickwork.

Rail hub on track to deliver 200 jobs

A MULTI-MILLION pound rail centre will deliver more than 200 jobs and 300 apprenticeships across five years, say council bosses.

Contractors are on the verge of being signed for the £27.8 million very light rail complex at Dudley's Castle Hill. Council chiefs have promised the 'world class' centre will create 225 jobs, 331 apprenticeships and 33 new businesses by 2021.

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Very Light Rail vehicles on land in the ownership of the Council at Castle Hill. The centre, requiring the use of test track facilities, would be ideally situated adjacent to the mothballed freight line.

"Working in partnership with the Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG), other higher education bodies, transport suppliers and neighbouring local authorities, the centre will lead on the development of the vehicles, associated infrastructure and training for the next generation of public transport solutions."

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New parking charges set to come in

CHANGES to parking charges are due to come into force across Sandwell on November 1.

Short-stay charges in council car parks in West Bromwich town centre will be cut to attract more shoppers and support local businesses.

However long-stay parking – over four hours – will be set at £4 a day borough-wide. This is the current rate in West Bromwich town centre, but other long stay car parks are currently £2 per day. When the changes were first announced, Unison members protested that hundreds of Sandwell Council workers would now have to pay £4 a day to park.

Short-stay parking charges in West Bromwich for those staying up to one hour will be halved from 80p to 40p, and for up to two hours from £1.60 to 80p. While it currently costs £2.40 to stay up to three hours, this will be reduced to £1.60, while the £3.20 charge for up to four hours will go down to £2.40.

From November 1 the cost of an annual season ticket across Sandwell will also fall from £390 to £240 per year. The new charges will be frozen until 2018.

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Steve Eling said: "We hope that by reducing parking charges in the town, it will give a boost to the local economy."

Aldi store to open on pub site next month

A NEW supermarket is set to open in Dudley at the end of October. The Aldi store will open its doors on the site of the demolished King Arthur pub, next to Birmingham New Road.

In recent weeks work has progressed quickly, with the structure and the 94-space car park taking shape, alongside promotional signs.

Steel plant would create 80 jobs on former school site

'Cathedral' window is being restored



Site foreman Bryan Furber has looks at the rose window at 'the cathedral of the Black Country', St Mark's Church, Pensnett

WORK is under way at a church known as 'the cathedral of the Black Country' to restore one of its beautiful stained-glass windows.

The £33,000 appeal was launched by parishioners at St Mark's in Pensnett after a large chunk of masonry fell in 2014, prompting a safety scare. Priest-in-charge Reverend Sue Oliver said: "If it had fallen on somebody's head it could have killed them."

Money has come in steadily with £18,000 collected through fundraising, boosted by a £10,000 gift by the late church treasurer Robert Morgan.

Church-goers are hoping to take a considerable step towards paying off the rest of the bill at an event to celebrate the church's 167th anniversary.

A gift day is planned for Sunday when visitors will be asked to towards the cost of completing the work.

The Grade II-listed building, built in the 1840s, is highly regarded for its architecture and is one of three local churches funded by Lord Ward, the Earl of Dudley.

Scaffolding has gone up around the stained-glass rose window. It is hoped the work will be completed by Christmas.

The gift day starts at 9am and the church will stay open until 4pm.

A FORMER high school site in Oldbury will be revamped into a multi-million-pound industrial site, creating up to 80 jobs.

Plans for an industrial complex in Popes Lane which will expand the base of West Bromwich-based Steel & Alloy Processing are due to be submitted to Sandwell Council.

The scheme at the former Albright High School site will boost the region's manufacturing economy, according to business chiefs.

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said: "It is heartening to see this significant level of investment coming into Oldbury at this time."

"The new jobs being created by Steel & Alloy are very welcome and is further demonstration of Sandwell being at the heart of the manufacturing economy of the West Midlands."

Trebor Developments has signed contracts with Steel & Alloy Processing to bring the scheme to fruition.

Spring

The school shut its doors in 2011. The proposed development of the 11.6 acre site will "significantly expand the manufacturing capacity of Steel & Alloy Processing" according to the firm's bosses.

Assuming plans for the site get the go-ahead, work will start on site in spring 2017 and it should be operational by 2018.

Bob Tattie, managing partner for Trebor Developments, said: "Trebor Developments are delighted to have agreed terms with Steel & Alloy Processing Ltd to deliver the Popes Lane site for their major new manufacturing facility and acquire the site from Sandwell Council.

"It is excellent news for the West Midlands economy to see such a major industrial investment within Oldbury."

Families in pro-refugee procession

A COMMUNITY group dedicated to helping refugees is holding a procession in Smethwick to spread messages of hope, solidarity, friendship and welcome.

Bearwood Action for Refugees will be holding the event, called Procession of Lights in Warley Woods on October 1, starting at 6pm.

Organisers want to unite families, community groups and those of different faiths for a torch-lit walk through the woods.

The event is being held in partnership with We Are Bearwood, the City of Sanctuary network and Near Neighbours.

The procession will begin by meeting at The Fountain at 6pm, before proceeding to The Pavilion where speakers will include Sandwell councillors Ann Jaron and Preet Kaur Gill.

For information email bearwoodactionforrefugees@gmail.com

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Level playing field may hold students back

IT appears that the powers that be are still trying to lump us together.

I was fortunate enough to pass the entrance exam and interview for grammar school, against everyone's expectations.

I was not in any way a brilliant student and struggled my way to five GCSEs, as the qualifications were then known.

However, 17 years after leaving school I went to evening classes covering a subject which I had failed at GCE.

Don't need to worry about Dave

SO there we have it, David Cameron throws his toys out of the pram.

This is the person whose achievements can be written on the back of a matchbox, ie gay marriage and six years of failed Tory austerity.

Many people in the UK will be feeling the effects of austerity for many decades to come.

His party has put more people into poverty in living memory in this country than any other.

He now wants to do work for charity, perhaps he can hand food parcels out at local food banks, which his party is famous for creating.

Maybe he could even change the name of them to Cameron's food store.

The Cameron legacy, which he made me become a member of at the age of 60 after working for over 40 years, is his party put me out of work.

Thank you Dave.

C LLOYD

Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Don't just improve education for an elite

I'M somewhat bewildered that grammar schools are this Government's hot new potato. It seems to have come completely out of the blue after being shelved for many years, what with Brexit, financial problems, Trident, HS2, the NHS crisis, to mention just a few. They are now stirring up a furore where there does not have to be one.

I cannot remember this matter being mentioned in their manifesto. I was not aware the public had concerns over grammar schools. What I was aware of was the public had concerns over the standard of our education.

Without consultation this Government has taken upon itself to again waste millions on something we do not need. What we do need is millions spent on the education of all pupils and not just the selected few, whereby again we will end up with elitism.

Where will the teachers come from to maintain grammar schools, let me guess, they will deplete our comprehensives, which in turn will further reduce any hopes of the young.

Well done Conservatives, another policy the general public had no choice in. Just let the peasants do all the work and the elite get all the benefits, as usual.

PETER LOWE

Brierley Hill

This choir deserve to be on TV

I FELT I had to write to sing the praises –excuse the pun – of The Coseley Male Voice Choir.

On September 3 at William Street Church, Brierley Hill, they provided an evening of wonderful entertainment on behalf of the The Black Country Fibromyalgia Support Group, held monthly at the Nine Locks Community Centre, Brierley Hill, of which I am a member.

They kindly gave up their time for free and raised a considerable amount of money for us.

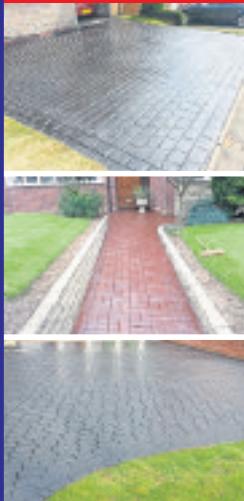
They were fantastic, treating us to a medley of songs. As for the musical director Ray, well what can I say, he put his heart and soul into the performance, as did the choir. And let us not forget Steve playing on the piano.

They were all like polished professionals, and in my honest opinion, they should be on TV.

JANINE TAYLOR-BLAKE

Dudley

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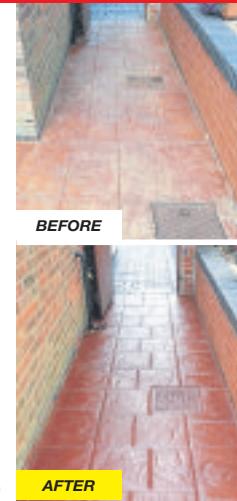
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Car show revs up at museum

AROUND 20 classic cars are expected to park up at Stourbridge's Red Cone Glass Cone for a motoring event.

The cars will be driving to the heritage site, on Sunday, courtesy of the Black Country Classic Car Club, which will be the first time a single car club has used the museum for a display.

There will be a duck trail and a cult car trail for families.

The artist studios will be open for business on the day and the Red Cone Coffee House will be rustling up treats.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member responsible for tourism, said: "The come event will be a big hit with people who love classic cars."

The Red Cone Glass Cone, High Street, Wordsley, is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 3pm, and at the weekends 11am to 4pm. Admission is free.

Schools told to pay for road safety wardens or lose them

LOLLIPOP wardens will disappear from outside school gates across the Dudley borough – unless schools pick up the bill to pay for them.

Cash-strapped Dudley Council is set to axe all of its school crossing patrols as part of drastic cost-cutting measures but will give schools the option to step in to pay for road safety wardens.

Bosses have admitted that many schools in other parts of the country have not been able to meet similar costs, meaning that the number of

lollipop men and women outside schools in the borough is likely to plummet.

Annual costs to schools to keep their wardens would vary, from just over £1,000 to as much as £20,000 for sites which use more than one.

All schools run by the local authority are affected. The changes, which would come into force from next year, would save the council around £260,000 per year.

The Labour-controlled authority needs to save £20 million over the next three years following severe budget cuts imposed by the Government.

School crossing wardens are an area where the council can save money as the authority is not legally obliged to provide them.

Dudley Council previously revealed plans to charge schools for their wardens but has now said crossings will go unmanned if schools cannot afford, or choose not, to keep them.

The plans are likely to be met by a backlash from worried parents.

New 20mph zones are set to be rolled out at 15 schools in the borough, which bosses hope will lessen the need for crossing wardens.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader

of the council's opposition Conservative Group, accused the council of 'morally blackmailing' schools.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "The service is not a statutory requirement but the council has previously been in a position to fund this service to schools across the borough.

"While we recognise its importance, we do need to look at alternative options to fund the service due to the unprecedented times we face as a result of significantly reduced funding from central Government."

Flying Scotsman is steaming in

THE majestic Flying Scotsman, the most famous steam locomotive in the world, returns to the Severn Valley Railway this week for the first time in 23 years.

The mighty engine – the first to break the 100mph speed barrier – has undergone a painstaking £4.2m restoration in the intervening years and is looking better than ever.

It attracted thousands of onlookers earlier this year when it made its first public appearance following the refit and has been drawing huge crowds wherever it has travelled since. Now it is the turn of steam fans in the West Midlands to get a peek at the historic engine in action and tickets sold out in record time.

The Flying Scotsman will steam between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth several times daily until Monday as part of the heritage railway's Pacific Power event. It will be joined by Tornado, the most recently made steam loco in the UK.

Arson suspected after car is gutted by blaze



The car is engulfed by flames in a suspected arson attack

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a car fire in Rowley Regis, which is believed to have been started deliberately.

Fire crews were called to the scene in Long Meadow, Rowley Regis, early on Monday morning. The fire also spread to conifer trees.

This dramatic picture shows the car engulfed in flames before it was gutted by the blaze in the suspected arson attack.

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman Matthew Smith said: "We got a 999 call at 4.32am on Monday. The motor vehicle was left completely destroyed by the fire. It looks like the fire also spread to a row of conifer trees."

"One crew from Haden Cross fire station attended. We had two firefighters wearing breathing apparatus. We used two hose reel jets to tackle the blaze."

"The incident was believed to have been started deliberately. Fire crews left the scene at around 5.15am."

The photograph was taken at the scene by Haden Cross fire crews, which shows the wreckage of the car engulfed in flames.

Festival will find region's best beer

A FESTIVAL is gearing up to be the showcase for this year's Beer of the Midlands competition, which is run by SIBA, the Society of Independent Brewers' Association.

The annual Birmingham Beer and Cider Festival, organised by the Birmingham branch of the Campaign for Real Ale, will host the judging to choose the best beer of the whole of the region, including challengers from the West Midlands.

The festival, which is open to Camra members and the public, will take place at The New Bingley Hall, Hockley Circus, from October 27 to 29.

Festival Organiser Andy Goundry said that the branch was looking forward to both the festival and this year's special competition. He said: "It is a great honour to be chosen to host this prestigious event, and it will be the icing on the cake of what promises to be a great festival."

Find out more at www.birminghambeerfestival.org.uk

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Pauline gets confidence after losing nine stone

A SUPER-SLIMMER who shed nine stone is set to enjoy her first time on a rollercoaster after her weight loss gave her the confidence to enjoy the ride.

Pauline Whitehouse, from Halesowen, dropped from just under 22st to 13st as part of a Slimming World programme. She said that she had never been on a rollercoaster as she feared she would not fit in the seat – but now she wants to give it a whirl at Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

Kitchen assistant Pauline, who lives with her partner Steven Blount in Colley Gate, says dropping six dress sizes has given her renewed confidence.

The mother-of-two decided two years ago that she wanted to lose weight.

She explained: "I was just sat there one night and realised I had had enough and something needed to be done. But I didn't think I would do it."

"I went into it thinking I needed to lose a couple of stone but had the shock of my life when I stepped on the scales."

Nerves

Pauline, aged 47, said she had to overcome her nerves before her first Slimming World session – but has not looked back since.

"I stood outside the door for 10 minutes, thinking 'should I go in or not?'" she said.

"I've made amazing friends from it and the weight came off easily – it wasn't even like a diet. It didn't feel like a diet at all."

"The confidence and the sense of achievement is brilliant. I'm not the same person I was before."

She added: "I used to think I was scared of flying and I've never even



Then – Pauline before she lost weight



Now – the new slimline Pauline



Pauline will celebrate getting trim with a rollercoaster ride at Blackpool

been on a rollercoaster, but really I was scared of sitting in the seats."

Pauline has dropped from a size 26 to a size 14 and now hopes to inspire the next generation of slimmers as she has become a Slimming World consultant herself.

And she will enjoy her first rollercoaster adventure in Blackpool next month.

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Flags fly for pomp and circumstance at Proms



Enjoying the patriotic proceedings at Haden Hill House Museum and Park, is Hope Smith, 14, of Cradley Heath

IT was a sea of red, white and blue as flag-waving music lovers flocked to a Proms in the Park event.

Hundreds packed into Haden Hill House Museum and Park in Cradley Heath to hear a feast of live music ranging from jazz to Halesowen Brass Band.

Visitors were able to enjoy a picnic and many got into the Proms spirit by waving Union flags.

Alison Hyatt, visitor services manager at the museum, said: "We have

had an amazing turnout and response. This is the fourth year we have run this event, supported by the friends group who do some great work."

As well as visiting Haden Hill House Museum and Park, people were able to get a rare glimpse inside Haden Old Hall. The hall, which was built around the late-1600s but has parts dating back to the Tudor period, is attached to the house and museum but is seldom open to the public.

The event took place at the weekend as part of Heritage Open Days and as part of Heritage Lottery Funded project 'Best's Angels'.



People listening to Proms in the Park

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Boss says new super hospital will be ready

A HEALTH boss says he is confident Sandwell's new multi-million pound 'super hospital' will be ready to deliver improved services when it opens in two years time.

A report earlier this year claimed more investment in social care was needed for the £350 million Midland Metropolitan Hospital.

Andy Williams, a senior member of the Sandwell Clinical Commissioning Group, CCG, which is responsible for planning and commissioning health services, insisted chiefs have plans in place for the future.

John Lister, a former consultant with 30 years' experience in the NHS, delivered his review of the hospital plan, raising concerns over social care, the scale and location of the site.

Mr Williams said: "We disagree with some of its conclusions. I think we are on course and we are ready."



The Fizzogs – Jackie, Sue and Deb – as the Dancing Grannies, seen at Stourbridge Carnival

Fizzogs are taking laughter show on tour

BLACK Country comedy group The Fizzogs have a new comedy sketch show that is going on tour from December to March.

Suck It and See will feature many of the famous Fizzogs characters, including the dancing grannies that became an internet sensation.

Fizzog Productions last month took the show to the Edinburgh Fringe, their second trip to the huge arts festival in the Scottish capital. Also appearing with the Fizzogs will be Black country comedian Jonny Cole.

The first dates for the show, which is suitable for the over-14s, are at Netherton Arts Centre from

December 15 to 17 and it will then be staged at Birmingham's Crescent Theatre from January 12 to 14.

Tickets will be £15 for all performances and can be booked through the website at www.thefizzogs.com and there will also be a performance at Kidderminster's Rose Theatre on February 4 and at the Theatre on the Steps in Bridgnorth from February 9 to 11.

Fizzog Productions was formed in 2000 by Sue Hawkins, Jacky Fellows and Deb Nicholls. They will also stage A Black Country Fairytale... Ay It! at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on October 27. Call the Grand's box office on 01902 429 212.

Grandfather is attacked after he got pension

POLICE have launched a hunt for muggers who attacked a terminally-ill pensioner as he went to get his hair cut in Brierley Hill town centre.

Roy Weston was robbed of his and his wife's weekly pension money in broad daylight last Monday morning, September 12.

The 78-year-old grandfather was pushed from behind by a man and a woman as the callous thieves pounced.

Mr Weston had picked up the pension money from the post office and had walked the short distance to Pepe's hairdressers in High Street at around 9.20am. He was attacked as he was about to walk through the door.

The frail victim, who was diagnosed with terminal prostate cancer last year, was left shaken by the attack.

Mr Weston, who lives in Brierley Hill, said: "I left the wife in the hairdressers and went to the post office. I went back to the hairdressers and as I opened the door a man and a woman came from behind me and pushed me into the hairdressers. Before I realised it, my money had gone."

Mr Weston and his wife Maureen, 76, have been left scared to go into the town centre following the incident. He said: "It has knocked us about a bit, with my cancer. It has really upset us, it has frightened us."

"We are frightened to go up the town and I have been going for years and years. I'll always be looking behind."

His daughter Diane, 49, said: "I'm angry and upset."

By Richard Guttridge

Dad was diagnosed with terminal cancer last November and he has kept a smile on his face and not let it beat him but after this happened he cried a lot at home. He felt useless and I don't want this to happen to anyone else."

Miss Weston pleaded with anybody who saw what happened to help police catch the culprits.

She said: "To mug an OAP of their pension money is disgusting."

If anybody has got information about what happened please come forward. How would you feel if it was your parents who had just been mugged? Please come forward."

Mr Weston previously worked at the Marsh and Baxter meat factory in the town before retirement.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Gina Lyett said: "We are appealing for information after a man had his pension stolen in Brierley Hill."

"Anyone with information is urged to contact West Midlands Police or to contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555111."

Lord Jones will not stand as metro mayor

LORD Digby Jones has confirmed he will not run for the new West Midlands mayor role and has pledged his support to John Lewis boss Andy Street as his preferred candidate.

The former Confederation of British Industry chief had considered a tilt at the role of metro mayor, overseeing the West Midlands Combined Authority from next May.

But now he believes likely Tory candidate Mr Street will 'deliver in all the aspects' required for the position.

"Everyone knows I am passionate about the West Midlands," said Lord Jones. "I want to see our region punch above its weight, engage with the rest of the world and make the most of every opportunity. Andy Street is the man to do this. He has the wealth of experience and is firmly on the side of business."

Mr Street will be up against Labour candidate Sion Simon and Beverley Nielsen for the Lib Dems when the metro mayor is elected on May 4.

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Funding hitch for busy roundabout

A MULTI-MILLION pound scheme to tackle congestion at a notorious roundabout has suffered a major blow after it was revealed there is uncertainty over funding.

The Birchley Island in Oldbury would be split in two to allow traffic to run through the centre of it, under plans by Sandwell Council to solve the congestion nightmare regularly experienced at the roundabout.

But the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) – a crucial funding source for the scheme – said it does not know when cash from its Local Growth Fund will be available.

Spokeswoman Jaswinder Janda said: "We will be supporting Sandwell Council in developing this priority project over the next four years. Sandwell Council is continuing to work up the full cost of the scheme and develop the full business case."

The LEP said it was still committed to the project, although it does not feature in its spending projections for five years.

DUDLEY Canal and Tunnel Trust are celebrating award-winning success.

They beat competition from around the country to take home Canal and River Trust's Living Waterways Award in the Recreation and Tourism category.

The trust collected the award at the Canal and River Trust awards evening at Birmingham Town Hall.

"We are delighted to have won the award," said Nick Morris, chief executive of Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust.

"It is a real testament to the tre-

mendous amount of hard work by Dudley Canal Trust staff and volunteers to provide access to this remarkable historic site."

Dudley Canal Tunnel Trust has championed the restoration, maintenance and enjoyment of the spectacular underground labyrinth of limestone mines and canal tunnels under Dudley for 55 years.

It's new £3.7million Portal Visitor Centre, on Birmingham New Road, with interactive exhibition gallery, learning space, Gongoozler restaurant and function room, shop and trip boat base, opened in October 2015.

"Over the past 50 years the trust

has operated from temporary buildings adjacent to the canal and tunnel entrances, but has long worked towards creating a centre to enhance the wonders of the caverns," said Mr Morris.

Our fantastic new Portal Visitor Centre has already doubled the numbers of visitors to the site since it opened just under a year ago."

Christopher Rodrigues CBC, chairman of the Living Waterways Awards Assessment Panel, praised the new facilities. He said: "The trust certainly deserves to be recognised for their remarkable work to promote and celebrate this important waterways site."



The Portal centre in Dudley

Region's business confidence slump

BUSINESS confidence in the West Midlands has fallen with economic uncertainty and weaker UK demand being seen as the biggest threats to businesses' fortunes, according to the latest Business in Britain report from Lloyds Bank.

The report, in its 24th year, surveyed the views of more than 1,500 UK companies, predominantly small to medium sized businesses, and tracks the overall 'balance' of opinion on a range of important performance and confidence measures, weighing up the percentage of firms that are positive in outlook against those that are negative.

Its confidence index – an average of respondents' expected sales, orders and profits over the next six months – has declined by 26 points to 13 per cent in the West Midlands since the previous survey in January.

Book tribute to Black Country comedy king



Angela Daniels with The Tommy Munden Story

THERE was plenty of laughter at the launch of a book dedicated to the memory of the Black Country's King of Comedy, Tommy Munden.

The Halesowen-born comedian's ability to 'spread a little happiness', was clear from the many jokes and amusing anecdotes fondly re-told by his friends, including by Angela Daniels, the writer of his new biography The Tommy Munden story.

Addressing a packed room during the book launch at the Dudley Canal Trust on Friday, Angela said: "I wanted to use as much of Tommy's own words as possible. I hope that in your mind's ear you will hear Tommy telling the jokes."

The book aims to help continue the legacy of the comic who died in 2014 after a battle with Parkinson's disease. The author knew Tommy for more than four decades, and explained that she had been able to gather a wealth of information from around 100 contributors.

The book's printing costs have been donated by Morgan and Company Solicitors and the Black Country Society, enabling profits to be donated to Mary Stevens Hospice.

Fire service ready for flood of applications

SIXTY firefighters are being recruited by West Midlands Fire Service with bosses braced for an avalanche of applications.

More than 3,600 people applied for 50 firefighter jobs when the service last recruited in January 2015. But this time round, the jobs will be given only to candidates living in the West Midlands. In previous recruitment drives, applications have come from across the globe.

Fire service jobs in the UK have long been hotly contested. A service boss revealed that CVs have been received this week alone from Romania and Afghanistan but would not be considered.

The jobs are largely replacements for firefighters who have recently retired or are coming up to retirement age.

Before last year's recruitment drive, the service had lost 275 firefighters in the previous four years as a result of £22 million cuts in Government funding.

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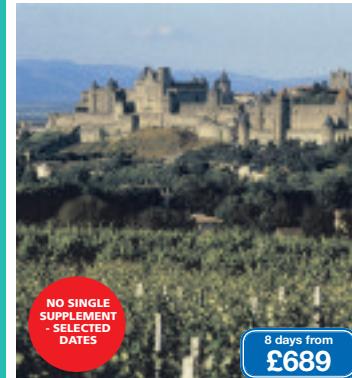
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Curtain up on Grand's dazzling new look



The unveiling of the Grand's new backcloth with, front, from left, director Vicky Price, committee member Mike Barlow and director Iain Watkins; back, chief executive Adrian Jackson, Friends treasurer Richard Bourne, Friends chairman Gordon Hands and committee member Tony Gull

VISITORS to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre will be seeing stars in their eyes when they visit the Lichfield Street venue thanks to a dazzling new stage backcloth that cost £25,000.

The hi-tech curtains laced with LED lights have been bought by The Friends of the Grand as a major contribution towards the theatre's £1.1 million revamp, which has given the much-loved playhouse a glamorous 1920s ambience.

Treasurer of the Friends committee, Richard Bourne, said: "It is a major as-

piration of the committee to support the theatre in every way possible."

"Our membership which has grown significantly over the last few years and now has associated membership numbers approaching 5,000.

Support

"We are the third largest organisation of its type in the UK. We want to keep growing in order to support the theatre and help chief executive Adrian Jackson and his team bring the best productions to Wolverhampton."

The Friends of the Grand offer a single membership for £21 per year, joint membership at £26, and member benefits include 15 per cent off most ticket prices. Members also get priority booking on most productions and invites to special events.

"It really is a great money saver but also a wonderful way to support your local theatre," added Mr Bourne.

To join ask at the Grand box office, pick up a leaflet or join online at www.grandtheatre.co.uk/become-a-member or friendsofthegrand website.

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Gym efforts raise £3,600 to help premature babies

A PREMATURE baby unit has received a £3,600 donation thanks to the efforts of gym members keen to get fit and help a good cause.

Run by Raj Kaur, Unique Fitness for Ladies Only is an independent gym based in Dudley. They have raised the generous sum through a series of activities including sponsored aerobathons, raffles and fun days.

For the first time this year some of the gym members also took up the challenge to reach 2,000 calories lost in under two hours, using the stepper.

The money raised will be used to buy two syringe drivers for drip machines for the Premature Baby Unit at Russells Hall Hospital. These machines allow tiny amounts of fluid or medicines to be administered continuously to the babies.

Congratulations for their efforts go to Lisa Brooks, Katie Rowley, Molly Tulloch, Zivile Zigarine, Joy Patel, Sara Gwynne, Teresa Smith, Gurjeet Aujla and Jo Wilde.

Karen Phillips, fundraising manager for the Dudley Group NHS Charity said: "Charitable donations to our neonatal unit make such a difference to our tiny patients and their parents during an extremely stressful time.

"We are very grateful to Raj and the members of Unique Fitness who took part in the fundraising."

Gym boss Raj Kaur is the Mayor's Pride of Dudley winner and will continue to raise money for many local charities in the coming years to add to the gym members' £20,000 they have already raised over the last five years. The next event is a 5km Memory Walk for Alzheimer's.



Raj Kaur, centre, and gym member Doreen Cartwright present the cheque to Julie Marks at the Neonatal Unit

Borough is bright spot after jump in jobless

THERE has been a shock jump in unemployment in the West Midlands, according to new figures that include the first month after the Brexit vote – but Dudley bucked the trend by recording a small fall in claimants.

While the picture has been improving nationwide – buoyed by big falls in unemployment in the East of England, Scotland, the South East – the West Midlands saw its figure rise by 17,000 to 176,000 between May and July.

The highest unemployment figure in more than a year made the West Midlands the worst performer of any UK region over those three months.

Across the UK as a whole a total of 1.63 million people are unemployed – a fall of 39,000 over the quarter and 190,000 down compared with a year ago, giving a jobless rate of 4.9 per cent.

But there was gloomier news as the number of people claiming unemployment benefits, such as Jobseeker's Allowance, jumped by 2,400 to 771,000 between July and August, the Office for National Statistics said.

That was reflected across the West Midlands, where it rose by 1,295 to 83,330.

Rare

In a rare bright spot the claimant count in Dudley fell by 20 to 5,685.

In Wolverhampton the claimant count increased by 185 to 6,830, or 4.3 per cent of the city's working population. That is more than double the national claimant rate of 1.9 per cent.

Walsall rose by 120 to

Infamous poisoners are to haunt house

HADEN Hill House will be turned into a haunted house this autumn when theatre company Don't Go Into The Cellar arrives at the venue.

On October 13 The Friends of Haden Hill Estate has invited the theatre company to return to Haden Hill House with Murder by Gaslight, an audience with two of the most infamous poisoners in British history – William Palmer and Harvey Crippen.

The interactive show features lashings of black humour, said Alison Hyatt, visitor services officer at Haden Hill House. Tickets are £7 including light refreshments for performances at 6pm and 8pm.

Then, on November 2, the company moves onto Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery where they will be performing Dracula's Ghost starting at 8pm. It is £6 per ticket.

The performances are suitable for over-14s. Visit sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums to book.

Big music festival proposed for valley

A MAJOR new music festival could be on its way to the Black Country with chart-topping stars on the bill and up to 240,000 music fans attending.

Council chiefs are in discussions with a promotional firm involved with V Festival about bringing a major show to Sandwell Valley Country Park.

Sandwell Council cabinet member for leisure, Councillor Richard Marshall, said up to 80,000 people could attend each day of the event, which is in the works following the success of this year's Let's Rock festival – an eighties music extravaganza that featured such famous names as Holly Johnson, Kim Wilde and Nick Heyward.

Talks are still in the early stages but Councillor Marshall said the inaugural festival could be held next summer if all goes to plan.

He said: "I've said for years that Sandwell Valley is much better than Glastonbury. The potential we've got is enormous."

Councillor Marshall said the authority is 'in the very early stages' of discussing the project and still needs to come up with a business plan.

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The top three groups collecting the most will receive an additional cash bonus of £1,000 with the remaining £32,000 divided proportionately between all the groups who qualify for a share.

HomeServe Membership CEO Martin Bennett said: "As passionate supporters of our local community for more than 20 years, we are proud to once again work in partnership with the Express & Star on Cash For Your Community.

Enthusiastic

"It is fantastic to see the recipients of the funding bringing to life their projects which are directly benefitting their communities. The HomeServe People are always enthusiastic about helping their communities and jump at the chance to get involved, whether volunteering to help local causes or fundraising for charity so I have no doubt that they will fully get behind this initiative again."

We have included a bonus token below for you to cut out and pass on. A list of groups, along with their addresses can be found at expressandstar.com/cfcy. Please do not send your tokens to the Express & Star they must be sent direct to your chosen cause.

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Gazza 'hurting inside' after racist jibe shame

FORMER England footballer Paul Gascoigne was fined £1,000 at Dudley Magistrates Court after admitting racially abusing a black security guard at Wolverhampton Civic Hall.

He was also ordered to pay £1,000 compensation to Errol Rowe over the comment made in front of hundreds of people during his 'An Evening with Gazza' show last year. The bodyguard was standing in the shadows at the side of the stage when Gascoigne asked him "can you smile or I can see you?" during the show. But he denied an allegation that he had made a comment in the dressing room that he "didn't know my security had a sun tan".

Mr Rowe said he had been "humiliated" and reduced to tears by the abuse from his football hero.

District Judge Graham Wilkinson told the former Newcastle, Spurs and Glasgow Rangers player that his words were "insidious racism" and that he had targeted Mr Rowe because of his colour in order to "get a laugh".

"Mr Rowe was clearly humiliated on stage because of no other reason than the colour of his skin. This is a very serious offence."

Lawyer Gavin Harris told the court: "Mr Gascoigne is sorry for

the offence he caused Mr Rowe that evening."

Mr Harris added: "The words used were not said out of malice but were from a bygone age."

Dressed in a pinstripe suit, Gazza, 49, who lives in Poole, Dorset, signed autographs and posed for pictures with fans before heading into court to plead guilty to racially-aggravated harassment.

Judge Wilkinson told Gascoigne: "It is important in our multi-cultural, multi-racial society we challenge racially-aggravated behaviour in all forms. It is the creeping, low-level racism society still needs to challenge."

"I accept you grew up in a different time but we live in the 21st century. Grow up with it or keep your mouth closed, Mr Gascoigne."

He was ordered to pay £600 in court costs before being driven away in a Porsche.

Gascoigne took to Twitter after his sentencing at Dudley Magistrates Court on Monday.

He wrote: "I'm an easy go lucky guy I want an easy life & I think every1 is my family what ever race. I'm sad this has come to this I'm smiling outside but inside I'm hurting."

Lawyer Gavin Harris told the court: "Mr Gascoigne is sorry for



Fined £1,000 – Paul Gascoigne arrives at Dudley Magistrates Court to be greeted by a media scrum

Hospital trust pays out £14m over errors

THE TRUST which runs Sandwell Hospital paid out £14.4 million to compensate for mistakes in the last financial year – up more than £9m on the year before.

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust made the payments, which include damages as well as legal costs, in 2015/16. This was a rise by £9.5m from 2014/15 when they paid out £4.9m.

But bosses of SWB Trust put the sharp rise down to clinical negligence claims from previous years which had only recently been settled.

Trust spokesman Vanya Rogers said: "It doesn't mean a rash of bad care, it was a year when a lot of claims were settled."

Director of Governance Kam Dhami said the health organisation 'regretted' where claims have been made.

She said: "We regret any instances where claims are made against the trust, as we are always striving to provide safe high quality care. The NHS Litigation Authority deal with claims on our behalf."

Years

"Some claims can take a number of years to be settled. The figures quoted represent the amount paid out in that year. That will include cases from multiple prior years."

"Because of this year on year comparison does not, alone, show anything about the quality of care in the trust today."

The figures have been

Coffee morning

A WORLD'S Biggest Coffee Morning event will take place in Stourbridge in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Steve McDowall and Sheila Wrigley will host it in aid of the charity at Wollaston Methodist Church Hall, in Cobden Street, between 9.30am and 11.30am on October 1.

All proceeds will go directly to the charity and guests can enjoy a cuppa, biscuit and chat.

£145m apartment block to be built on city's Broad Street

BIRMINGHAM is to see another addition to its high-rise skyline, with a £145 million tower block of flats that will be built on Broad Street.

The 37-storey tower, opposite Brindleyplace, will house 450 apartments, all offered for rent.

The scheme has been put together in a joint venture by developer Moda Living and financial backers Apache Capital Partners. The designs, drawn up by Glenn Howells Architects, also include 30,000 sq ft of communal amenity space including a sky lounge, meeting rooms and indoor/outdoor cinema and fitness suite. There will also be a roof terrace with a 200m running track and landscaped gardens.

In addition there will be around 35,000 sq ft of additional retail, office and leisure space across the scheme.

Lee Savage, UK development director of Moda Living, said: "This site fits in perfectly with our strategy of targeting central locations in major urban areas, where we can deliver high quality rental housing at scale to professionals let down by the buy-to-let market while also supporting on-going regeneration efforts."

Richard Jackson, co-founder and managing director of Apache Capital Partners, said: "This prime site is perfectly placed in the heart of central Birmingham and will deliver a completely new standard of residence and lifestyle for the city centre rental market whilst also becoming part of the local community and supporting the city's continued strong growth."

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That Unchained Melody moment at the potter's wheel with Andy Moss and Sarah Harding in the new production of Ghost The Musical, being staged in Birmingham until Saturday

Ghost the Musical New Alexandra Theatre Birmingham

THERE are only two words that readers, theatre-goers and music lovers will want to see in this review – Sarah Harding.

The former Girls Aloud singer is the reason this production has been hitting the headlines, and sadly not in a good way.

While she was a member of one of the most successful girl bands of this generation, and therefore likely to get

plenty of bums on seats, her acting abilities have been called into question. Indeed she has been frankly savaged by critics and on social media for, initially, her stint on Coronation Street and lately for her role as Molly in this production.

Is she that bad? Well no, she's not THAT bad. This is Ghost the MUSICAL and she does have a beautiful voice. Three Little Words, her duet with Sam played by Andy Moss, is stirring, her solo number With You is a lovely, touching ballad and she per-

forms a moving version of Unchained Melody. Her portrayal of Molly, however, is very limited. Her scenes of grief lack depth or emotion.

Ex-Hollyoaks star Moss portrays very likeable Sam which makes his sudden death the more tragic. Then, as Ghost Sam, he really shines in his scenes with the real star of the show – medium Oda Mae Brown played by Jacqui Dubois in the role immortalised in the 1990 film by Whoopi Goldberg.

It runs until Saturday. Diane Davies

Songwriters showcased at the double

Dan Whitehouse, Boo Hewerdine

Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury

WOLVERHAMPTON singer-songwriter Dan Whitehouse is currently on tour with his Reveal Records label mate and songwriting hero Boo Hewerdine, adding up to a formidable double bill of talented musicianship.

First up at the delightful small venue, on the third floor of a medieval pub, Whitehouse arrived with a fine new album to promote, That's Where I Belong.

Stripped down to voice and electric guitar, the album's songs lost no im-

pact. In fact, they became even more intense given the singer-songwriter's emotive, whole-hearted delivery, particularly That's Where I Belong, You Brought The Sunshine and, one of his earlier songs, Why Don't We Dance.

He was back on stage as Hewerdine's co-guitarist on several songs including the rocking Sweet Honey In The Rock and Muddy Water.

Former front man of 80s band The Bible, Hewerdine can be described as the songwriter's songwriter, spanning genres from pop to folk and back again.

He is also a genial, witty performer whose impressive set included his 'one hit' Patience of Angels (it was covered by Eddi Reader) and the free-wheeling Harvest Gypsies.

He also showcased Cinderella, a song from a musical he is developing with Squeeze's Chris Difford, and a tribute to David Bowie, entitled Swimming In Mercury, from a new album due next year.

Catch them if you can at The Kitchen Garden Cafe in Kings Heath on Wednesday, October 5.

Leon Burakowski

REVIEWS



The cast of The Importance of Being Earnest at Birmingham Rep, with Cathy Tyson far left

Wilde comedy is crisp, witty and delivered at a cracking pace

The Importance of Being Earnest
Birmingham Repertory Theatre

OSCAR Wilde pokes fun at the church, the family and marriage as well as the idleness of the upper class in Victorian England in this comic play.

Director Nikolai Foster uses a disconcerting mirrored set designed to give a contemporary context but sometimes is just a distraction. The costumes are eye-catching but there are some strange anomalies, such as a dress cropped above the knees in a

most un-Victorian way. The casting is superb. The script, full of well-known quotes, is delivered crisply and at a cracking pace.

Cathy Tyson gives a superb performance as Lady Bracknell. It's a haughty and imperious portrayal avoiding the stereotype Edith Evans delivery of that famous 'handbag' line. Edward Franklin, as Algernon, succeeds in their attempts to be Earnest. The play continues at Birmingham Rep until Saturday.

Jerald Smith

Star Reader Travel

Quote: JGRT



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Royal recognition for service to community

RESIDENTS from across the Black Country have been awarded British Empire Medals for their services to the community.

A total of eight people were awarded the prestigious medals, also known as the BEM, including three from Dudley.

They were all given their medals by the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands, Colonel George Marsh TD, at a special ceremony at Birmingham's Council House in the city centre.

One of those receiving applause was 83-year-old Jean Fletcher from Priory Court, Dudley. Mrs Fletcher currently volunteers one day a week at Mary Stevens Hospice, after working as a nurse until she was 76.

After receiving her BEM for community service, Mrs Fletcher said: "I am very happy to receive the award. I volunteer once a week or when they need me, which I enjoy."

Health

Another Dudley resident to receive the silver medal was Lynne Jankowska, from Wordsley.

The 64-year-old was awarded hers for services to health, being one of Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trusts' longest serving experts.

In her role she has helped to make improvements to the design and delivery of the trust's services.

She said: "I am delighted with the award, it was such a jolly occasion and everybody obviously had been working very hard."

"I never thought I would get a medal for my work, I was amazed really."

The final Dudley resident to receive their award was athlete Shahzada Saleem. Mr Saleem, from Ploverdale Crescent, Kingswinford, is a former stone-lifting champion who also goes by the title King Shazad.

A champion stone lifter from 1985 to 1996, the 51-year-old set up the Shazad Academy after he retired from the sport.

The academy has helped young and



British Empire Medal recipient Jean Fletcher of Dudley with Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Colonel George Marsh TD and Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mohammed Hanif, and Mayoress Zabeda Khanam



Shahzada Saleem receives his medal



Lynne Jankowska with Colonel Marsh more. I achieved so many medals in my life, gold medals, trophies, everything, but this is one of the best.

"My legacy is complete now, I trained hard all my life for this. I am so happy about this, all my family and friends are excited and happy as well."

He said: "Getting a medal from her majesty - you cannot ask for anything

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Commercial feature

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Bari, the owner, and his team have been serving Indian cuisine in Halesowen for the last 11 years, all hand crafted by the Bangla Lounge's award-winning chefs.

"We are a popular restaurant with a big difference, offering family values entwined with outstanding service," said Bari.

The restaurant offers guests 2-for-1 on main meals (eat in only) from Sunday to Thursday, or for those who don't fancy going out for a meal, they can order a takeaway and get 20 per cent discount with free home delivery service available.

"If you're somebody who usually sticks to their favourite dish, why not try our Sunday evening all-you-can-eat buffet, excellent value for money £9.95 per person with a selection of starters, mains with lamb, chicken, vegetables, rice, naan and chips, even dessert and coffee," said Bari. The buffet is served from 5pm with more than 20 dishes to choose from.

At Bangla Lounge people can dine, relax, laugh, chat, celebrate and entertain in cosy and contemporary surroundings.

If you want to celebrate a special occasion, then book the function room and get VIP treatment. Exclusive use bookings are now being taken for Christmas parties with set menu prices starting at £12.95 per person. Book early to avoid disappointment.

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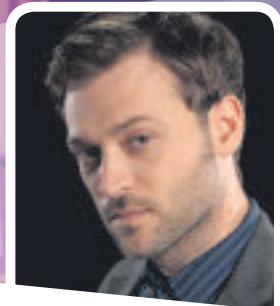
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Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

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ROCK & METAL

Lizzie and the Banshees – A tribute to Siouxsie and the Banshees
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The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ. Call 0121 246 2273

The Beat starring Dave Wakeling
Tonight, £18 - £20
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Small Fakers – Small Faces tribute
Tomorrow, £7 - £8
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.

Justin Hayward
Tomorrow, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 42 92 12

Remi Harris in Concert
Tomorrow, The Market Theatre, Ledbury, HR8 2AQ. Call 07967 517125

One Night of Queen
Tomorrow, £17 - £20
Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP. Call 01952 382382

A Foreigners Journey
Sun, £10 - £12
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Toseland
Wed, £8
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1DR. Call 01782 214991 and Thu, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552122

FESTIVALS

Free Reign – folk rock festival
Sun, £5 - £6
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ. Call 0121 246 2273

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Sun, £22.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

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Tue, The Jam House, Birmingham, B3 1QU. Call 0121 200 3030

CLASSICAL

G4 Back For Good Tour
Tue, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

COMEDY

The Importance Of Being Earnest
Tonight - tomorrow, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Josh Widdicombe: What Do I Now...
Tonight, Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB. Call 01684 892277

Barnstormers Comedy September 2016
Tomorrow, £14
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Jeremy Hardy
Tomorrow, £15.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

Nina Conti: In Your Face
Sun, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 42 92 12

Dead Sheep
Mon - Thu, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Pete Firman: TriX
Wed, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

King Kong Comedy Club
Thu, Gunmakers Arms pub, Birmingham, B4 6HG. Call 0121 236 8486

WiFi Wars
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Puppetry of the Penis – The Vegas Show
Thu, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

THEATRE

Ghost
Tonight - tomorrow, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Vesta by Chris Jaeger
Tonight, Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB. Call 01684 892277

Justin LIVE!

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That'll Be The Day
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The Tempest
Mon, £10 - £14
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

Jane McDonald
Tomorrow, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD. Call 0844 871 7649

Let's Hang On
Tomorrow, £15 - £18.50
Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP. Call 01952 382382

Sing-a-Long a Grease
Sun, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD. Call 0844 871 7649

CATS
Mon - Thu, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

Ministry of Science LIVE
Mon, £11 - £14.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

Norma
Mon, £8 - £17
Ludlow Assembly Rooms, SY8 1AZ. Call 01584 878141

Open Door: Disorder
Mon, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Little Shop of Horrors
Tue - Thu, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

ARTS & CULTURE
Caroline Jariwala – Mosaics

Today - Thu, Winterbourne House and Garden, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2RT. Call 0121 414 3003

The Art Of Slowing Down
Today, Creative Coffee Hub, Birmingham, B29 6HJ. Call 01215 727300

The Birmingham Whisky Club Presents: Craig's List – Fine & Rare'
Today, The Wellington, Birmingham, B2 5SN. Call 0121 200 3115

Neon Night Run – Mary Stevens Hospice

Tonight, Himley Hall and Park, Dudley, DY3 4DF. Call 01902 895207

Kadamb Dance Company: Bahukon
Today, MAC, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Desperado
Tonight - tomorrow, £17
Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth, WV16 4BD. Call 01746 766477

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre
Today - tomorrow, Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Sara Barker
Today - Thu, Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS. Call 0121 248 0708

Žilvinas Kempinas
Today - Thu, Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS. Call 0121 248 0708

Information Lecture: Help and Healing on the Spiritual Path through the teaching of Bruno Groening
Tomorrow, Free
The Polish Millennium Centre, See <http://www.bruno-groening.org/english/>

MISC. EVENTS

All The Worlds A Stage Arts Festival
Tonight, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD. Call 0844 871 7649

Sutton Record Fair
Tomorrow, The Carpenter's Arms Community Centre, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5UY. Call 01213212285

Bridge Club
Mon, Areley Kings Village Hall, Areley Common, Stourton-on-Severn, DY13 0NB. Call 07939 318973

Ladies Beginner's Bhangra Bollywood/Giddha Dance Classes
Mon, £4.50
North Birmingham Academy, B44 0HF. Call 0121 373 1647

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Rhydian on stage is still X-tra special

CLASSICAL crossover star and former X Factor finalist Rhydian will play sadistic dentist Orin Scrivello in Little Shop of Horrors at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre next week after a run this week, to Saturday, at Lichfield Garrick.

Welsh baritone Rhydian (Roberts), a former Birmingham Conservatoire student, was runner-up to Leon Jackson in the 2007 series of The X Factor.

But Rhydian was the real winner, going on to sell more than a million albums worldwide, release six albums in total and performing with some of the biggest names in the music industry. He also carved himself a career in hit musicals. His many musical theatre credits include Grease, We Will Rock You, The War Of The Worlds, Jesus Christ Superstar and the 40th anniversary tour of The Rocky Horror Show. He was a Classical Brit Award nominee.

Platinum

With his distinctive platinum hair, pale complexion, chiselled features and ripped body, he looks like a Bond movie villain, all bulging biceps, rippling abs and a washboard stomach.

He wants to make music that people remember and stay in shows that send the punters home happy and be recognised for his work, rather than X Factor associations.

"I make no bones about it, X Factor was very important to me. I wouldn't be a star of the show, in inverted commas, if I hadn't been on that and wasn't recognisable," he said.

"It has fast-tracked my career. But I would have done these things anyway, with or without X Factor. Per-



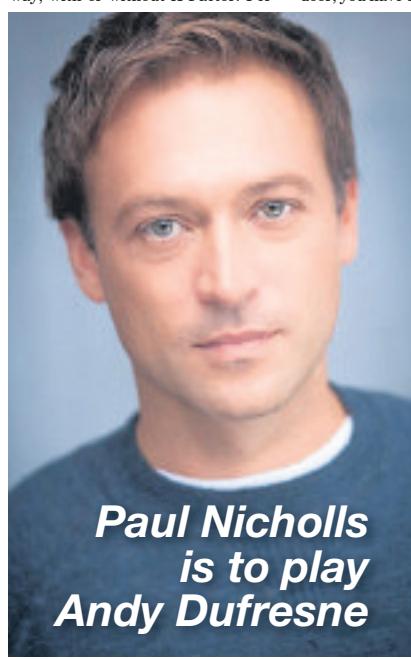
Former Birmingham music student Rhydian as the dentist in Little Shop of Horrors

forming is my vocation. I had to have a certain quality to get through the rounds. X Factor isn't easy, let me tell you. You have to toe the party line and sell your soul to the devil a little bit. I knew what I was getting into.

"But even if X Factor opens the door, you have to turn it in night after

night to get hired. I wouldn't get the gigs if I didn't turn it in."

See Rhydian's wicked Skid Row dentist as he takes on nerdy Seymour the florist's man-eating plant in comedy-musical Little Shop of Horrors at the New Alexandra from Tuesday to Saturday (www.atgtickets.com).



Paul Nicholls
is to play
Andy Dufresne

Shaw-fire play success

EASTENDERS heart-throb Paul Nicholls, best known for playing Joe Wicks, will have a starring role when The Shawshank Redemption arrives at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next week.

The production is adapted from Stephen King's novella Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption, which was made into the 1994 film, The Shawshank Redemption.

The movie, which has been voted as the nation's favourite film, starred Tim Robbins as Andy Dufresne and Morgan Freeman as Ellis 'Red' Redding and was nominated for seven Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Actor for Freeman.

Paul Nicholls will play Dufresne in the stage version. His other TV credits include Grange Hill, Law & Order: UK and The C Word.

He is also an accomplished stage actor who made his West End debut in Long Day's Journey Into Night and has acted at several leading playhouses in London.

Ben Onwukwe, who takes on the role of Red, boasts a 30-year stage career. His most prominent TV role was as Stuart 'Recall' McKenzie in London's Burning, a character he played for over a decade.

Keeping them in line, Jack Ellis will play the part of Warden Stammes. He is best known for his role as prison warden Jim Fennel in the ITV television series Bad Girls, in which he appeared for seven series.

The Shawshank Redemption will be at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday. Call the box office on 01902 429212.

Showcases for the songwriters

IT'S a great week for catching some fine singer-songwriters in action, including Beth Orton at the O2 Institute 2 in Digbeth on Wednesday. That's the same night quirky Welsh maverick Meilyr Jones is at The Rainbow's Courtyard venue nearby.

Fuzzy California slacker pop comes from Colleen Green and Cassie Ramone at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath on Sunday, when nearby at the Kitchen Garden Cafe the enigmatic Jane Siberry will perform. Stay With Me Til Dawn singer Judy Tzuke is at the Robin 2 on Wednesday and the Bilton venue has a tribute to Carole King and James Taylor on Thursday.

Twist and crawl with English Beat

LACE up your boots and rev up the scooter, there's a feast of ska on the way. The English Beat, featuring Brummie singer-guitarist Dave Wakeling, will be reviving hits such as Mirror In The Bathroom, Twist And Crawl and Tears Of A Clown, at Bilton's Robin 2 tomorrow night (Friday). But it clashes with London ska-punk outfit Popes of ChilliTown at Wolverhampton venue The Slade Rooms, also tomorrow night.

There will be more ska at the Robin the following Friday with eight-piece band The Superskas. But if you fancy some classic rock, The Counterfeit Stones play the Robin this Saturday.

Chart-toppers in sold out Brum gig

GIG of the week is at the O2 Institute in Birmingham tomorrow night (Friday) where Stockport band Blossoms, who went to no1 with their self-titled debut album, have sold out.

Other highlights include Rat Boy at the same Digbeth venue on Saturday, also the night that Merseysider Natalie McCool, whose indie-pop album The Great Unknown is out now, plays the Sunflower Lounge in Birmingham.

Danish band Yung are at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath on Tuesday and up-and-coming girl band The Tuts play the same pub venue on Wednesday.

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SUN 25/09/16
STARMAKERS KARAOKE

MON 26/09/16
QUEST QUIZ & KARAOKE
TUE 27/09/16
PREDATORS KARAOKE
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CHOICE

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **(R) 12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Live PDC Darts Champions League. Further coverage of four group-stage matches. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Pointless: Celebrities.

6.30 Strictly Come Dancing. Steve Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the second part of the pro-celebrity dance contests opening weekend. On Friday night, the first six couples made their dance floor debuts, and tonight, the remaining nine pairs are given a chance to show off their burgeoning talents. As ever, judges Len Goodman, Darcie Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood are on hand to deliver their verdict on each step, kick, dip and pirouette, but at this early stage in the contest, none of the stars need worry about elimination. The scores allocated this weekend are carried over to next week's show, when voting lines open, and viewers at home get their say.

8.00 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion. A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Plus, Gaby Roslin introduces the all-important weekend Lotto and Thunderball draws, as Petula Clark performs live in the studio, and does the honours of pushing the Lotto button.

8.50 Casualty. Charlie gets into a scrap with an old schoolyard bully when attending a 50-year school reunion, and David's troubled son acts out as he and ex-wife Rosa have a very public row.

9.40 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes tries to persuade the health visitor Grandad is in need of respite care – so she can go on holiday – and receives ominous news from beyond the grave from her late husband. (R)

10.10 BBC News: Weather. **10.30 Match of the Day:** National Lottery Update.

12.00 The NFL Show. **12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

This is BBC Two.



Dr Tori Herring

Walking Through Time (Channel 4, 8pm)

New series, Palaeobiologist Dr Tori Herring follows up her documentary on the mega-flood that separated Britain from continental Europe with three more investigations, all of which explore some of the prehistoric forces that shaped the national landscape. She begins by visiting north-west Scotland, where the craggy coastline indicates an asteroid landed 1.2 billion years ago. Dr Mike Simms of Ulster Museum joins Tori as she searches for the impact crater, which would be the first of its kind discovered in mainland Britain.

This is BBC Two.

BBC2

6.10 Film: Short Circuit. (1986) Sci-fi comedy adventure, starring Steve Guttenberg. **7.40 Film:** Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas. (2003) Animation adventure, with the voice of Brad Pitt. **9.00 Film:** Land of the Lost. **(R) 10.00** Horrible Under the Hammer. **(R) 11.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. **(R) 1.30** Great British Menu. **2.00** Great British Menu. **2.30** Great British Menu. **3.00** The Hairy Bikers' Chicken and Egg. **(R) 4.00** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. **(R) 4.30** PDC Darts Champions League. Further coverage of the afternoon session of group-stage matches. **5.00** Gardeners' World. (R)

6.00 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring is alarmed to discover the extent of Corporal Jones's cash-flow crisis and takes drastic measures to help the butcher get back on his feet. Classic comedy first shown in 1975, starring Arthur Lowe and Clive Dunn. (R)

6.30 Live PDC Dark Champions League. Coverage of four further group-stage matches from Motorpoint Arena in Cardiff, as the inaugural staging of the competition featuring the world's top eight players gets underway. Michael van Gerwen, Gary Anderson and Phil Taylor are among those scheduled to participate, and all eight players will be in action once again during this session. Presented by Jason Molinard, with commentary by Vassos Alexander and David Dawson, analysis from Paul Nicholson, Mark Webster and Alan Warner-Little, and reports by Caroline Barker.

10.30 Elton John Live at Hyde Park. The singer performs a concert to a crowd of 50,000 fans for Radio 2's Festival in a Day event, featuring old favourites and songs from his recent album Wonderful Crazy Night. (R)

11.30 Film: Telstar: The Joe Meek Story. (2008) Biopic charting the career of the influential 1960s record producer, who was ultimately brought down by depression and paranoia. With Con O'Neill, Kevin Spacey and Pam Ferris.

1.25 Film: Leaving. (2009) A woman in a loveless marriage decides to abandon her husband and teenage children in pursuit of a purely sexual relationship. Drama, with Kristin Scott Thomas. **2.45** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **(R) 6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **(R) 6.50** Sooty. **(R) 7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. **(R) 7.05** Super 4. **(R) 7.20** Obi-Wan. **(R) 7.25** Scrambled: Nerds & Monsters. **(R) 7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **(R) 7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. **(R) 8.10** Scrambled!: Cool, Scrooby-Doo! **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **(R) 9.25** Murder, She Wrote. **(R) 10.20** Murder, She Wrote. **(R) 11.20** Columbo: Fade in to Murder. **(1976) 12.50** ITV News: Weather. **12.55** Tipping Point. **(R) 1.55** All Star Family Fortunes. **(R) 2.40** Pick Me! **(R) 3.40** The X Factor. **(R) 5.10** Ninja Warrior UK. (R)

6.05 Regional Programme: Weather. **6.15** ITV News: Weather. **6.30** You've Been Framed! Exploding toilets, airborne chaise-vois, a cat with a talent for playing the drums and an embarrassing situation for Darth Vader are among the comedy clips submitted by fans.

7.00 Go for It. Members of the public are given a chance to demonstrate their most unusual skills in unique challenges, with successful contestants claiming a £1,000 prize.

8.00 The X Factor. Judges Simon Cowell, Sharon Osbourne, Louis Walsh and Nicole Scherzinger face some difficult decisions this week, as the first of two Six Chair Challenges arrives. The current batch of contestants are asked to perform in front of live audiences for the first time, before each member of the panel must make a snap decisions over which six acts they would like to take through to the Judges Houses stage of the competition. However, the pressure isn't only on the judges during this round, as Simon, Nicole, Louis and Sharon return to their seats to replace anyone they've previously given a chair, should a rival contestant outperform their previously chosen protégé.

9.30 Newzoids. Satirical sketch show blending traditional puppetry and animation.

10.00 The Jonathan Ross Show. **11.05** ITV News: Weather. **11.20** Film: Beowulf. (2007) **1.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. **(R) 3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. New series. Jimmy Carr hosts the hybrid comedy panel quiz show, as guest team captain David Walliams joins forces with Jonathan Ross, while Jon Richardson teams up with Joe Lycett.

10.00 Film: Knight and Day. (2010) A woman gets kidnapped and dragged into a rogue secret agent's mission to clear his name after he is framed as a traitor. Comedy adventure, starring Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz.

12.10 Film: Case 39. (2009) **2.10** Hollyoaks. **(R) 2.40** Food Unwrapped. **(R) 4.50** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Gillette World Sport. **6.40** Motor Sport: GT Academy. **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 7.55** Frasier. **(R) 8.25** Frasier. **(R) 9.00** The Morning Line. **10.15** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 11.30** The Simpsons. **(R) 11.30** The Simpsons. **(R) 12.00** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 1.00** Gok's Fill Your House for Free. **2.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of races at Newmarket and Market Rasen. **4.30** A Place in the Sun. **5.35** Ugly House to Lovely House with George Clarke. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News. **7.00** Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows plumber Jon Martin and ceramicist Noreen Jaafar as they transform a neglected half-acre site in Gloucestershire. However, they are unable to cut down the 27 protected trees on the plot, so their solution is to build a big, modern treehouse with stilts screwed into the earth and balconies that will have views for miles. (R)

8.00 Walking Through Time. New series. Palaeobiologist Dr Tori Herring follows up her documentary on the mega-flood that separated Britain from continental Europe with three more investigations, all of which explore some of the prehistoric forces that shaped the national landscape. She begins by visiting north-west Scotland, where the craggy coastline indicates an asteroid landed 1.2 billion years ago. Dr Mike Simms of Ulster Museum joins Tori as she searches for the impact crater, which would be the first of its kind discovered in mainland Britain.

7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. The apparent scientist serving as an executive naval officer draws Callen and the team into the secretive world of the city's Chinese community. (R)

7.55 NCIS. The agents are investigated by the FBI on suspicion of murdering arms dealer La Grenouille, and Jenny Shepard is the prime suspect – until an eyewitness implicates Tony. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hippgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Brighton & Hove Albion v Barnsley, and Aston Villa v Newcastle United.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hippgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two.

10.30 The Cars That Made Britain Great. Martin Kemp and Jon Culshaw join Rufus Hound to extol the virtues of the Ford Cortina. Nick Baker suggests the Cheetah, while Julia Bradbury and Dom Joly love the VW Beetle. (R)

11.30 Criminals: Caught on Camera. How CCTV and technological advances are helping to bring criminals to justice. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** BAMMA 26.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.25** The Fairly OddParents. **9.00** The Saturday Show Live. **11.00** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. **(R) 12.00** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. **(R) 1.00** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. **(R) 2.00** Police Interceptors. **(R) 3.00** Police Interceptors. **(R) 4.00** Police Interceptors. **(R) 5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. In **6.00** Del and Dael try to collect nearly £3,000 owed by an Indian takeaway, but tempers flare when they threaten to seize kitchen equipment. Meanwhile, Paul and Steve evict a tenant who is in £14,000 in rent arrears, and in Surrey, Del and Dael chase nearly £4,000 owed by a car dealer to a dissatisfied customer. Finally, in west London, two agents face one of their trickiest evictions to date, with their arrival at a young couple's flat coming as a shock. (R)

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11.30 Criminals: Caught on Camera. How CCTV and technological advances are helping to bring criminals to justice. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** BAMMA 26.

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Keith Richards' Lost Weekend. **8.00** Johnny Cash: The Man, His World, His Music. **8.55** Keith Richards' Lost Weekend. **9.15** Film: London – The Modern Babylon. **(2012) 11.20** Film: Keith Richards' Lost Weekend. **12.15** Film: Bicycle Thieves. **(1948) 2.45** Keith Richards' Lost Weekend. **2.20** Film: I Walked with a Zombie. **(1943) 3.30** Film: Keith Richards' Lost Weekend. **3.30** Close

ITV2

12.40 The Xtra Factor. **1.40** Ninja Warrior UK. **2.40** You've Been Framed! **3.15** Film: Beethoven's 2nd. **(1993) 4.15** F1. **Daily 4.20** Film: Beethoven's 2nd. **(1993) 5.00** Film: Stargate. **(2002) 6.00** F1. **Daily 6.05** Film: Stargate. **(2002) 7.55** Film: The Mummy Returns. **8.00** Film: The Mummy Returns. **(2001) 9.30** The Xtra Factor. **10.30** Celebrity Juice. **11.20** Family Guy. **12.40** American Dad! **1.40** The Cleveland Show. **2.05** Mom. **2.45** Teleshopping. **4.05** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

1.55 Foyles' War. **3.55** Agatha Christie's Marple. **5.00** Midmovers. **5.55** Doc Martin. **8.00** Midmovers. **11.00** Lewis. **1.00** You're Only Young Twice. **1.50** ITV3 Nightscreen. **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

1.40 British Superbike Championship Highlights. **2.40** British Touring Car Championship Highlights. **4.15** Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol. **(1987) 5.10** Film: The Kingdom. **5.15** Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol. **6.00** Fishing Impossible. **7.00** Fierce. **8.05** Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach. **(1988) 9.10** F1. **10.00** Film: Miami Beach. **(1988) 10.00** Film: Assignment Miami Beach. **(1988) 10.00** Film: On Deadly Ground. **(1994) 11.00** F1. **11.05** Film: On Deadly Ground. **(1994) 12.05** Film: The Kingdom. **(2007) 1.05** F1. **Daily 2.15** Film on Wheels. **2.55** IT4. **Nightscreen 3.00** Teleshopping

E4

1.40 British Superbike Championship Highlights. **2.40** British Touring Car Championship Highlights. **4.15** Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol. **(1987) 5.10** Film: The Kingdom. **5.15** Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach. **(1988) 6.00** Fishing Impossible. **7.00** Fierce. **8.05** Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach. **(1988) 9.10** F1. **10.00** Film: On Deadly Ground. **(1994) 11.00** F1. **11.05** Film: On Deadly Ground. **(1994) 12.05** Film: The Kingdom. **(2007) 1.05** F1. **Daily 2.15** Film on Wheels. **2.55** IT4. **Nightscreen 3.00** Teleshopping

Film4

1.00 Dead John. **2.00** 3.05 Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World. **2011) 4.50** The Addams Family. **(1991) 6.55** Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters. **(2013) 9.00** Prometheus. **(2012)**

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CHOICE

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Chianti Hills. **1.45** What's for Lunch? (R) **2.45** Points of View. **3.00** Inquisitive Animals. (R) **4.00** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Autumn: Earth's Seasonal Secrets. **6.35** BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 **Countryfile.** Matt Baker oversees this year's One Man and His Dog at Florence Court. Co. Fermanagh, with shepherds from England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland and their families. The assessors are competing for the trophy in the 40th anniversary contest. Anita Rani explores the history of the estate and meets the families of the competitors, including weather for the week ahead.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Arley Hall and Gardens in Cheshire, where a time capsule that has been buried for 130 years is opened for the first time on camera. Other finds brought in include a gold bracelet with a tragic past that was found bricked up behind a wall, and a lost work by 19th-century artist Anna Alma-Tadema.

9.00 **Poldark.** Ross makes a deal with a criminal who offers to pay him for using Nampara Cove as a safe haven for smuggling – but Demelza does not approve of his actions. Elizabeth tries to placate George to avoid bankruptcy – but finds the price of keeping him at bay is too high – while Ross comes to blows with him when he makes an unexpected appearance at a shareholders' meeting.

Demelza goes into labour under dangerous circumstances. Aidan Turner, Eleanor Tomlinson, Ruby Bentall, Caroline Blakiston, Beatie Edney, Jack Farthing, Luke Norris and Heida Reed star.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 **Match of the Day.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, focusing on the sole match between West Ham United and Southampton at the Olympic Stadium.

11.15 **The Women's Football Show.** A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.

11.45 **Film: Winter's Bone.** (2010) A teenage girl searches for her estranged father, whose bail-jumping threatens to leave her mother and siblings homeless. Drama, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Isah Stone.

1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

1.30 **ITV News.**

1.30 **Match of the Day.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, focusing on the sole match between West Ham United and Southampton at the Olympic Stadium.

1.45 **Film: Winter's Bone.** (2010) A teenage girl searches for her estranged father, whose bail-jumping threatens to leave her mother and siblings homeless. Drama, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Isah Stone.

2.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.15** BBC News.

2.30 **ITV News.**

2.30 **Match of the Day.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, focusing on the sole match between West Ham United and Southampton at the Olympic Stadium.

3.00 **ITV News.**

3.00 **Match of the Day.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, focusing on the sole match between West Ham United and Southampton at the Olympic Stadium.

3.45 **Film: Winter's Bone.** (2010) A teenage girl searches for her estranged father, whose bail-jumping threatens to leave her mother and siblings homeless. Drama, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Isah Stone.

4.45 **Rip Off Britain.** Consumer affairs show investigating issues around the UK. (R)

5.35 **Antiques Roadshow.** Matt Baker oversees this year's One Man and His Dog at Florence Court. Co. Fermanagh, with shepherds from England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland and their families. The assessors are competing for the trophy in the 40th anniversary contest. Anita Rani explores the history of the estate and meets the families of the competitors, including weather for the week ahead.

6.35 **BBC1.** Aidan Turner



Aidan Turner

Poldark

(BBC1, 9pm)

Ross makes a deal with a criminal who offers to pay him for using Nampara Cove as a safe haven for smuggling – but Demelza does not approve of his actions. Elizabeth tries to placate George to avoid bankruptcy – but finds the price of keeping him at bay is too high – while Ross comes to blows with him when he makes an unexpected appearance at a shareholders' meeting.

Demelza goes into labour under dangerous circumstances.

Aidan Turner, Eleanor Tomlinson, Ruby Bentall, Caroline Blakiston, Beatie Edney, Jack Farthing, Luke Norris and Heida Reed star.

1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

1.30 **ITV News.**

1.30 **Match of the Day.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, focusing on the sole match between West Ham United and Southampton at the Olympic Stadium.

1.45 **Film: Winter's Bone.** (2010) A teenage girl searches for her estranged father, whose bail-jumping threatens to leave her mother and siblings homeless. Drama, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Isah Stone.

2.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.15** BBC News.

2.30 **ITV News.**

2.30 **Match of the Day.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, focusing on the sole match between West Ham United and Southampton at the Olympic Stadium.

3.00 **ITV News.**

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3.45 **Film: Winter's Bone.** (2010) A teenage girl searches for her estranged father, whose bail-jumping threatens to leave her mother and siblings homeless. Drama, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Isah Stone.

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6.35 **BBC1.** Aidan Turner

BBC2

6.15 **The A to Z of TV Gardening.** (R) **6.30** **Glorious Gardens from Above.** (R) **7.15** **Gardeners' World.** (R) **8.15** **Countryfile.** (R) **9.15** **The Beechgrove Garden.** **9.45** **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **10.00** **British Bites.** **11.45** **Great British Menu.** **12.15** **MOTD Extra.** **1.00** **Live PDC Darts Cup.** Coverage of four group stage matches. **5.00** **Heir Hunters.** (R) **5.45** **Flog It!**

6.30 **Live PDC Dart Champions League.** Coverage of the semi-finals and final from Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena, as the players to have progressed through the group stage hope to claim the £100,000 first prize. Presented by Jason Mohammad, with commentary by Vassos Alexander and Dan Dawson, analysis from Paul Nicholson, Mark Webster and Alan Warriner-Little, and reports by Caroline Barker.

10.30 **Fleabag.** Surprises are in store when Fleabag attends her godmother's exhibition of erotic art, forcing her to face up to her actions and reveal what became of Boo. Last in the series.

10.55 **Murder in Successville.** Sleet recovers in hospital after being shot, and looks back on some of his most memorable cases as he considers whether he wants to quit the police force. Last in the series.

11.25 **Jade: Why I Chose Porn.** Following a porn star as she attends shoots across Europe, exploring why she chose to abandon a career in the fashion industry after graduating from university.

12.05 **Film: Tormented.** (2009) A teenager who killed himself rises from the dead to revenge on the classmates who bullied him into an early grave. Satirical horror, with Tuppence Middleton and Alex Petrie. **1.35** **Sign Zone.** **2.00** **Jackie Collard: The Great Missenden.** Roald Dahl's home village, to discover how a love of the great outdoors inspired his writing. Plus, a selection of archive features on artists. (R) **2.30** **Holby City.** Dom is knocked for six by a shocking discovery about Isaac's relationship with his former mentor, while Jasmine wants Jac to acknowledge her as a sister, but comes unstuck. (R)

3.30 **This is BBC Two.** Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two. **5.45** **Rip Off Britain.** Consumer affairs show investigating issues around the UK. (R)

10.05 **ITV News.**

10.20 **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R)

11.20 **Premiership Rugby Union.** Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures.

12.15 **Jackpot247.** **3.00** **Motorsport UK.**

3.50 **British Superbike Championship.** Highlights. **4.45** **ITV Nightscreen.**

ITV

6.00 **CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge.** **6.25** **Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.35** **Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.50** **Sooty.** (R) **7.00** **Frasier.** (R) **8.30** **the Big Bang Theory.** (R) **9.00** **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **9.25** **Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs.** (R) **10.00** **Peston on Sunday.** **10.20** **Scrambled!** (R) **10.30** **Bear Grylls Survival School.** **10.45** **Horrid Henry.** (R) **8.10** **Scrambled!** (R) **8.30** **Scrambled!** (R) **8.45** **Thunderbirds Are Go.** (R) **9.25** **ITV News.** **9.30** **Bear Grylls Survival School.** **10.00** **Peston on Sunday.** **11.00** **Best Walks with a View.** with Julia Bradbury. (R) **11.30** **Chopping Block.** (R) **12.30** **ITV News: Weather.**

12.35 **Judge Rinder.** (R) **1.35** **River Monsters.** (R) **2.05** **Victoria.** (R) **3.10** **The X Factor.** (R) **4.40** **Doc Martin.** (R) **5.35** **Regional Programme.** **5.45** **ITV News: Weather.**

6.00 **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Sarah Willingham, Shaun Ryder, Michelle Dewberry and Eddie Edwards work as a team to take on quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh.

7.00 **The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary presents the second installment of the six chair challenge, as the contestants perform for the first time in an arena. Nicole Scherzinger, Siobhan Donaghy, Louis Walsh and Sharon Osbourne each have to choose six acts to join them in the judges' houses, bringing them one step closer to the live shows – but the judges are free to change their minds at any point in the programme.

9.00 **Victoria.** Albert feels he needs a greater role in public affairs, and becomes involved in the anti-slavery movement. Victoria matches wits with the Duke of Sussex to see that her husband is granted more respect, while Skerritt faces a dilemma when she realises that the only person who can save her cousin and child from certain death is the man she trusts the least.

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12.15 **Jackpot247.** **3.00** **Motorsport UK.**

3.50 **British Superbike Championship.** Highlights. **4.45** **ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.40 **Motor Sport: 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship.** **7.10** **Motor Sport: British Rally Championship.** **7.35** **Frasier.** (R) **8.00** **Fraser.** (R) **8.30** **the Big Bang Theory.** (R) **9.00** **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **9.25** **Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs.** (R) **10.00** **Peston on Sunday.** **10.20** **Scrambled!** (R) **10.30** **Scrambled!** (R) **10.45** **Horrid Henry.** (R) **8.10** **Scrambled!** (R) **8.30** **Scrambled!** (R) **8.45** **Thunderbirds Are Go.** (R) **9.25** **ITV News.** **9.30** **Bear Grylls Survival School.** **10.00** **Peston on Sunday.** **11.00** **Best Walks with a View.** with Julia Bradbury. (R) **11.30** **Chopping Block.** (R) **12.30** **ITV News: Weather.**

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3.50 **British Superbike Championship.** Highlights. **4.45** **ITV Nightscreen.**

4.55 **Antidote Parents.** (R) **5.15** **Scary Piggy.** (R) **5.30** **Little Princess.** (R) **6.00** **Blaze and the Monster Machines.** (R) **6.30** **Noddy in Toyland.** (R) **8.45** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **8.55** **Shimmer and Shine.** (R) **9.25** **Peppa Pig.** (R) **9.45** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.55** **The Fairly OddParents.** (R) **10.30** **Football on 5:** The Championship. (R) **11.25** **Football on 5:** The Football League. (R) **12.00** **Funnies.** (R) **12.25** **The Hotel Inspector.** (R) **1.20** **The Hotel Inspector.** (R) **3.15** **The Hotel Inspector.** (R) **4.10** **5 News Weekend.** (R) **4.15** **Film: The Illusionist.** (R) **5.00** **Peacock.** (R) **5.30** **TVN Nightscreen.**

6.25 **Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas.** (R) **7.00** **the challenge.** (R) **7.30** **TVN Nightscreen.**

7.45 **Film: Les Misérables.** (1978) **2.35** **Film: The Big Bang Theory.** (2007) **4.45** **Film: Les Misérables.** (1978) **4.50** **Film: Carry On Screaming.** (1966) **5.00** **Film: Carry On Screaming.** (1966) **5.55** **Rosemary & Thyme.** **7.00** **Midsomer Murders.** (2009) **11.00** **TVN Nightscreen.**

1.20 **TVN's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks.** (TV) **7.00** **Misfits.** (2013) **8.00** **TVN Nightscreen.**

8.00 **Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls.** (TV) **8.30** **TVN Nightscreen.**

9.00 **Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls.** (TV) **9.30** **TVN Nightscreen.**

10.00 **When Magic Goes Horribly Wrong.** (TV) **10.30** **TVN Nightscreen.**

11.00 **Body Fixers.** (TV) **11.30** **TVN Nightscreen.**

12.00 **Body Fixers.** (TV) **12.30** **TVN Nightscreen.**

1.00 **Storage Wars.** (TV) **2.05** **Film: All Quiet on the Western Front.** (1939) **3.20** **FYI Daily: The Bachelor.** (2019) **3.45** **FYI Daily: The Bachelor.** (2019) **4.45** **Film: The Green Berets.** (1968) **5.45** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **6.45** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **7.45** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **8.00** **Premiership Rugby Union.** (2019) **9.00** **ITV News.** **9.30** **TVN Nightscreen.**

10.00 **Storage Wars.** (TV) **11.00** **Film: The Green Berets.** (1968) **12.00** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **1.00** **Storage Wars.** (TV) **2.05** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **3.10** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **4.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **5.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **6.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **7.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **8.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **9.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **10.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **11.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **12.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **1.00** **Storage Wars.** (TV) **2.05** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **3.10** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **4.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **5.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **6.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **7.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **8.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **9.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **10.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **11.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **12.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **1.00** **Storage Wars.** (TV) **2.05** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **3.10** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **4.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **5.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **6.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **7.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **8.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **9.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **10.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **11.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **12.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **1.00** **Storage Wars.** (TV) **2.05** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **3.10** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **4.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **5.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **6.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **7.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **8.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **9.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **10.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **11.15** **FYI Daily: The Green Berets.** (1968) **12.15** **FYI Daily**

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Abducting Zoe, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A detective tries to help a sixteen-year-old in the search for her kidnapped baby. Crime drama, starring Sammi Hanratty, Alexandra Holden and Andrea Bowen. (2014)

TUESDAY

Kidnapped: Desperate Hours, Channel 5, 3.15pm

An American wife's world is turned upside down when her husband, the son of a Mexican newspaper publisher, is kidnapped. Drama, starring Teri Polo, Esai Morales and Nicholas Gonzalez. (2011)

WEDNESDAY

A Daughter's Nightmare, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A grieving widow finds a shoulder to cry on in the form of a charming male nurse, but when her health subsequently begins to fail, her daughter embarks on a dangerous search for the truth about her illness. Drama, starring Emily Osment, Paul Johansson and Victoria Pratt. (2013)



Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY

The Cheating Pact, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Three high school students convince a shy but intelligent girl to take the college entrance test for them. After she gets a low score on one of the tests, she dies in mysterious circumstances, leaving the trio as suspects in her demise. Daniela Bobadilla, Laura Ashley Samuels and Laura Wiggins star. (2013)

FRIDAY

The Good Witch's Charm, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Newly elected mayor Cassandra Nightingale struggles to balance her political responsibilities with raising a newborn baby. Fifth in the Good Witch family drama series, starring Catherine Bell. (2012)

Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome, ITV, 10.40pm

The warrior pitches up in the city of a cut-throat desert community in search of his stolen vehicle and ends up making a deal with a local dictator to get rid of her rival for power. But when the bargain turns sour, he is cast out into the wilderness – where he becomes the unlikely protector of a tribe of feral youngsters. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Mel Gibson. (1985)

New series hopes to make a good impression

What do an Eastern European internet bride, a self-obsessed glamour model trying to rid herself of cellulite, a teenage 'special needs' boy who interviews celebrities and Pippa Middleton all have in common?

They are just some of the roles that hugely talented Morgana Robinson has played since her small screen debut nine years ago.

And with that kind of versatility it will come as no surprise that the 34-year-old Australian-born comic has ended up plying her trade in the world of celebrity impressions.

"I'm not very good at being me," she told *The Daily Telegraph* just before her appearance on *The Great Sport Relief Bake Off* earlier this year.

"I like to hide behind a character, in a wig or something, and be judged like that instead of as myself."

"I've always been a clown – I love being stupid."

"You can relate to them [impressions] immediately, you don't have to invest any time in the character, and when someone

highlights something about someone that you didn't see, it's a bit of a revelation."

Morgan got her showbiz break back in 2007 playing the aforementioned internet bride in BBC comedy *The Green Grass*.

She then starred in the TV pilot *Eight Steps to Enlightenment* and a *Nervous Breakdown*, an improvised mockumentary. Then in 2009 she appeared in another hit BBC comedy *My Family*, before starring in a running sketch segment (*Gilbert's Special Report*) in *The TNT Show*.

In 2010, Channel 4 commissioned *The Morgana Show*, before another sketch show *Very Important People* also starring Terry Mynott, in which she impersonated a variety of celebrities, including Frankie Boyle, Danny Dyer, Amy Childs and Adele.

Her performance earned her the Best Comedy Breakthrough Artist award at the 2012 British Comedy Awards.

Earlier this year, Robinson starred as the Duchess of Cambridge in *The Windsors*, a comedy parody of the

royal family, and tonight, Morgana Robinson's *The Agency* begins.

It is a brand-new seven-part series in which she plays the entire celebrity roster of leading talent agent Vincent Mann (of Mann Management), with Linda Hargreaves playing off Robinson in various roles.

In a groundbreaking move, Vincent has allowed a documentary crew into his agency, and given them access to the likes of Miranda Hart, Natalie Cassidy, Russell Brand, Joanna Lumley, Gregg Wallace, Mel and Sue, Danny Dyer and Adele.

In this first episode we are introduced to Vincent as he deals with Miranda Hart's burning desire to be taken more seriously as an actor and Danny Dyer's diversification into children's literature.

Morgana's characters have come in for a bit of criticism in the past. However, the comic strenuously defends all her creations, and doesn't have any such concerns about poking fun at celebrities in this new show.

"I don't think my impressions are nasty, they're celebratory," she insists.



Morgana Robinson's *The Agency*, Monday, BBC2, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Extreme Food, Channel 4, 8pm

New series. Kenyan chef Kiran Jethwa heads to Mongolia, where he joins the Kazakh eagle hunters on horseback on a quest for wild rabbit. His adventure begins in the town of Ulgi in Mongolia's westernmost province, where he sees a potentially explosive form of pressure-cooking called Booodog, involving an entire butchered sheep, and he also creates a mouth-watering rabbit pie, using his own improvised mini-pressure cooker to prepare the meat before serving it up with a nut crumble topping.

Trump vs Clinton Live: US Presidential Debate, Channel 4, 1.45am

New series. Matt Frei presents live coverage of the first of three showdowns in which Democrat nominee Hillary Clinton and her Republican counterpart Donald Trump go head to head, with both candidates taking to the stage knowing their performance may well determine who will become the next president of the United States. Billionaire Trump takes on former US secretary of state Clinton at Hofstra University on Long Island, New York, debating major topics selected by a

moderator, with the pair having two minutes to talk about each issue and a chance to respond to what the other says.

TUESDAY

Damned, Channel 4, 10pm

Given her acclaimed work in sitcoms such as *Getting On* and *Going Forward*, there was little wonder Jo Brand was given a green light to co-write and star in this new series. With the aid of fellow scribes Morwenna Banks and Will Smith (not that one), this new comedy centres on long suffering Children's Services social workers at Elm Heath council. In the first episode, Nitin, an ex-copper, is tasked with spying on the rest of the team. The excellent supporting cast includes Ms Banks, Alan Davies, Kevin Eldon, Himesh Patel and Aisling Bea.

WEDNESDAY

Grand Designs, Channel 4, 9pm

Kevin McCloud follows Matt and Sophie White from Sussex as they build a giant family house

of fun for themselves and their children. Going against the norm of designing a serious and practical home, the couple's property features a revolving bookcase door, secret dens, hiding places, one-way mirrors, and a fireman's pole. Matt uses a steel frame system to allow them to change the layout of the property, and other changes include amending the window shapes and sizes, and adding a half floor to create a James Bond room.

THURSDAY

The Fall, BBC2, 9pm

The eagerly awaited third series of Allan Cubitt's gripping crime drama is here at last – but what does fate have in store for the chillingly handsome serial killer Paul Spector and his nemesis, Detective Superintendent Stella Gibson? At the end of

the previous run, Spector had been caught by the police but shot by jealous husband James Tyler, and when we pick up the story, medics are fighting to save the murderer's life. News of the shooting hits the headlines, and the press and police bosses waste no time criticising Stella's handling of the case – despite the fact that she got her man. Spector's young acolyte Katie also hears the news, and as she begins trying to format a way to help her idol, his wife, Sally Ann, attempts to explain what has happened to her young children. Richard Coyle and Aisling Bea join the cast alongside Jamie Dornan and Gillian Anderson.

FRIDAY

Travel Man: 48 Hours in Helsinki, Channel 4, 8.30pm

Time-conscious traveller Richard Ayoade is joined by actor Paul Rudd for a brisk round the Finnish capital. To get their bearings the pair head straight to the ladies toilet in the Torni hotel, which offers the best view of the city. They then go kayaking and snack on some reindeer jerky at the city's Hakanemi market. Richard and Paul also visit not one, but two saunas – one of which can be found in a well-known burger chain. The duo also visit the wilderness island of Seurasaari, go foraging, and finish up in a sweet shop.



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For prospective pupils and parents

Monday 26th and Wednesday 28th September 2016 6.30pm - 9.30pm

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Tuesday 27th and Thursday 29th September 2016 9.30am



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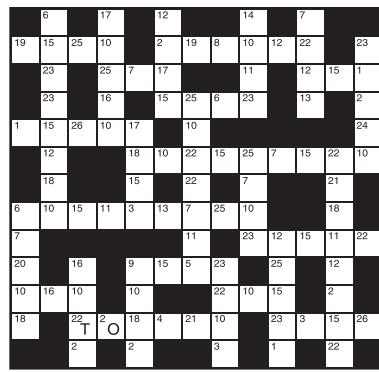
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or mobile friendly 01743 761499

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1 L 2 E 3 B 4 P 5 F 6 R 7 A 8 M 9 O 10 V 11 K 12 J 13 G
14 C 15 N 16 W 17 Z 18 D 19 X 20 S 21 H 22 I 23 U 24 Q 25 T 26 Y

Quiz

- Which hills range from Bristol to Chipping Camden?
- Which biological divisions include Animalia, Plantae and Fungi?
- Which athlete set six world records in less than an hour in 1935?
- How many kings called James has Scotland had?
- For what is epistaxis the technical term?
- Pico de Orizaba is the highest mountain in which country?
- Which author is best known for Shogun?
- Which legendary figure is said to have been born at Tintagel?
- In which US state is Detroit?
- Who was the last Norman king of England?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Leo; 2 Richard Cromwell; 3 Fig; 4 Ballet; 5 Goodwood; 6 Friedrich Engels; 7 1936; 8 Gold; 9 India; 10 Jesuit priest.

Niner: UNEARTHLY

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

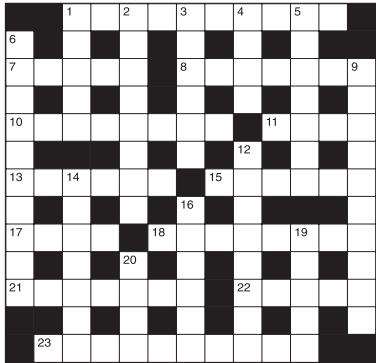
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Completely, even if, in short, only approximately (10)
- Gather a lot together in the morning on a ship (5)
- See 11 Across
- Increase go-ahead line (4)
- Appearing indistinctly when working at weaving machine? (7)
- Capital amount of laundry? (10)
- Does wrong by obtaining most French exam successes (10)
- Telephone now the arena has been erected (4,2)
- Implied one missed diplomacy (4)
- Takes off weight in a flash? (8)
- Golf club given by pensive writer? (7)
- Fat micro seen in it (5)
- How the chief speaks in the graveyard (10)

Down

- Drink the health of a saint? (5)
- Sees that the old boy hits the ball first (8)
- See 11 Across
- 增加 go-ahead line (4)
- Appearing indistinctly when working at weaving machine? (7)
- Capital amount of laundry? (10)
- Does wrong by obtaining most French exam successes (10)
- Telephone now the arena has been erected (4,2)
- Implied one missed diplomacy (4)
- Takes off weight in a flash? (8)
- Golf club given by pensive writer? (7)
- Fat micro seen in it (5)
- How the chief speaks in the graveyard (10)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Combine (10)
- Elevate (5)
- Cultivation (7)
- Traveller (8)
- Uncivil (4)
- Horse goes round taxi - gruesome! (7)
- Gate - one of three consecutive ones in 10 (6)
- No odds? (5)
- Relations
- How the chief speaks in the graveyard (10)

Down

- Friendliness (5)
- Suspension (8)
- Collect (6)
- Masculine (4)
- Vilify (7)
- Muscularity (10)
- Voters (10)
- Editing (8)
- Arbiter (8)
- Fraud (7)
- Motionless (5)
- Subject (5)
- Rim (4)

Sudoku



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >
8 4 1 3 7 5 2 9 6
2 6 5 4 9 1 7 8 3
7 9 3 2 8 4 5 4 1
3 2 6 8 5 9 1 4
4 1 8 6 2 3 2 5 7
5 7 4 1 4 2 8 6 2
6 8 4 1 2 7 3 5 9
5 1 7 9 3 4 6 2 8
9 3 2 5 6 8 4 1 7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Cowboys; 7 Stain; 9 Tip; 10 Exchanges; 12 Chiroptist; 15 Under canvas; 17 Battle-cry; 19 Gin; 21 Again; 22 Counter. Down: 1 Tonic; 2 Ebb; 3 Lynn; 4 Stone-deaf; 5 Disease; 6 Plop; 7 Chief; 8 Tonic; 14 Entomologist; 16 Tires; 18 Run; 20 And; 21 Quirk. Across: 5 Rehain; 7 Diary; 9 Hit; 10 Reverence; 12 Paradoxical; 15 Break the ice; 17 Affronted; 19 Ray; 21 Remit; 22 Produce. Down: 1 Begin; 2 Dry; 3 Size; 4 Timepiece; 5 Crucial; 8 Remove; 11 Maladroit; 13 Attend; 14 Proffer; 16 Fancy; 18 Eam; 20 Ode.

Thinking space



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Enjoying jumping into the sea at Loyly Sauna, Helsinki



A mushroom on the forest floor in the national park



Full steam ahead – the Loyly Sauna against the backdrop of Helsinki



Admiring the view from Vallisaari Island

Full steam ahead to Finn-ish on a high in my peaceful tree tent

FOR a population so adeptly conditioned to cold weather, Finns are surprisingly good at taking the heat.

Tossing a large ladle of water over hot coals, a glistening, tattooed Nordic grins gleefully as our dark, charcoal-stained smoke sauna transforms into an angry furnace.

As steam singes my nostrils and beads of sweat form rivulets in every fleshy fold, I bolt for the door and wonder if Brit basting is all part of the entertainment.

There are 3.3 million saunas in Finland, more than one for every other person, but the majority are private. Helsinki's new Loyly (a term used to describe the steam that rises when you throw water on the sauna's rocks) represents a return to public, social spaces.

By Sarah Marshall

The wooden, steep-sloped structure, with a seaside bar terrace and open-air rooftop lounge, is also part of Helsinki's drive to embrace outdoor spaces and bask in the long, warm days of short but sweet summers.

Elsewhere, a car park has been transformed into a pool complex and a new law has been passed allowing businesses to turn parking spaces outside buildings into temporary summer terraces. Subsequently, an apparently quiet capital is now outwardly effervescent with life. Thankfully, I prevent my own blood bubbling so vigorously by retreating to Loyly's second, more sedate sauna, where horizontal pine slats act like Venetian blinds, revealing near naked bodies descending into the sea.

Closer to town, next to the port and fried

fish stalls of Market Square, the Helsinki Allas Pool is due to fully open later this month. Local residents and tourists are already making use of the dockside terrace, where filtered salt and fresh water swimming pools will be suspended in the harbour next to segregated saunas.

Paddling

The idea for the complex has been partly financed by crowdfunding. Although paddling in the shadow of cruise liners is off-putting, the central location will no doubt prove popular, and owners plan to have a reserve of rentable swimwear for spontaneous sauna goers. Along with cruise ships, sightseeing ferries servicing Helsinki's archipelago also leave from the port.

Newly opened to the public this year is Vallisaari island, a 20-minute journey away. Once occupied by Russia and later

used as a military base, it's now a nature refuge. Strict regulations govern Vallisaari, which is off limits from 10pm to 6am, although there is talk of opening a Tentile hotel on the island next year.

The gravity defying, British-made Tentile Tree Tents, which appear to levitate above ground and are suspended between three trees, have developed a cult following in Finland, and adventure tour companies currently use them in nearby Nuuksio National Park.

According to the traditional Finnish legal concept of Everyman's Right, the public have the right to roam freely through wilderness areas. Using thick pads to protect the trees, Miki sets up our tents next to the bathwater-warm Lake Kolmoislahti. By nurturing nature on their doorstep, Helsinki's city dwellers have struck upon a truly fine way to live.

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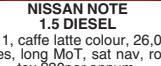
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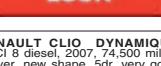


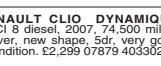








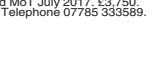
















Inspired by the GT spirit

By Anthony Martyn

DS Performance, synonymous with the FIA Formula E Championship, is the creative force behind a new trim level – 'DS Performance Line' that will be available across the DS Automobiles range from October.

Officially revealed for the first time today, the DS Performance Line combines the spirit of the GT with refinement and the latest DS brand technologies.

For DS Automobiles, the last year has been all about performance. DS Virgin Racing reached the podium in its first Formula E season by winning the Buenos Aires E-prize and repeatedly finishing in the points or starting at the front of the grid throughout the 2015/2016 campaign.

DS E-TENSE was revealed at the Geneva Motor Show as a unique, high-performance electric car showcasing future DS technology and styling, and new DS 3 Performance and new DS 3 Cabrio Performance were recently launched as two models proudly expressing their dynamic credentials.

Now, with the introduction of the DS Performance Line, the brand's engineers and designers – along with the DS Performance motor sport division – have utilised their know-how to create this new offering.

"The 'DS Performance Line' offers all the fundamental ingredients of a Grand Tourer, namely style and driving pleasure," said Éric Apode, DS Automobiles' vice president for products and business development.

Be it a new DS 3, new DS 3 Cabrio, new DS 4 or DS 5, a Performance Line model is instantly recognisable.

Each body style is specified with a contrasting black roof, combined with a specific palette of body colours (seven for DS 3, six for DS 4, and five for DS 5).

The new large gloss black alloy wheels feature the DS logo set against a Carmine Red background on the centre caps to add exclusivity to all DS Performance Line models.

The signature colours of DS Performance (Carmine Red, White and Gold) are seen on key components of the vehicle, such as the door mirrors and the rear spoiler. In addition, the front doors and bonnet are adorned with special new 'DS Performance Line' badges.

Values

Refinement and attention to detail are two fundamental values for DS Automobiles. The DS Performance Line pays tribute to these brand values with a number of specific features including a new style of upholstery with black Dinamica cloth, or a choice of two grades of leather trim. The overstitching on the seats reflects the colours of DS Performance.

The special stitching also adorns the door panels, the gear lever gaiter and the leather steering wheel. In addition, the front seats are embroidered with a 'DS Performance Line' emblem.

The quality of the leather, and the other materials used, enhances the refinement of each interior. A choice of either grained or Nappa leather is available across the entire range.

There is metallic detailing within the cabin, including chrome inserts on the steering



DS Performance Line is dedicated to drivers seeking GT-inspired styling, combined with a choice of refined and efficient engines

wheel and door sill protectors to further enhance the meticulous style of the interior. Finally, new DS 3, new DS 4 and DS 5 offer LED lighting to illuminate the cabin.

On the outside, the DS grille is accentuated by the DS LED Vision light signature – a technology that takes distinction to a new level.

The DS Performance Line features a broad range of efficient engines with outstanding torque, ultra-low CO2 emissions and fuel consumption. All these engines feature Stop & Start technology.

The Performance Line also features the DS brand's latest technological developments including a 7-inch touchscreen, Satellite Navigation, Mirror Screen (MirrorLink® and Apple CarPlay™), and DS connected services via the DS Connect Box.

With its dynamic look, the DS Performance Line is dedicated to drivers seeking GT-inspired styling, combined with a choice of refined and efficient engines.

The DS Performance Line will go on sale in the UK on October 1.



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Megane's freshened up range pleasing

By Ian Donaldson

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For the Talisman, successor to the old Laguna, is not sold here. Too big for Britain, you see, where our larger cars need posher badges to sell. But the Talisman plays an important part in a car very much on sale here, and crucial to the continuing better fortunes of Renault in the UK.

Say hello to the new Renault Megane, a core vehicle in the French car maker's sales ledger on our side of the Channel and now presented in its fourth generation for our delight.

Bolder looking (much, and elegantly stylish too), the new Megane is longer and lower than before but, thankfully for our crowded streets, precisely the same modest width as before. The wheels, with up to a sporty 18ins alloy rim available, are set further apart front and rear and across the body too, again helping the newcomer look energetically athletic.

Night and day, you are helped to notice the new Megane with rows of permanently lit LEDs at front and rear, which the designers say helps make the car look wider (they always like that). They will also like an interior that cuts down on buttons to the extent that just about any adjustments outside cabin temperature are handled by taps on a touchscreen whose generous size dominates the centre of the dash and adds an expensive feel; not quite in Tesla territory but the Megane inhabits a much more affordable part of the market.

Prices start at £16,600 and top out at £25,500 (for the moment) for a range that takes in four engines; a couple of diesels with 110 or 130 horsepower and a pair of petrol models, offering 130hp or – in the current range topper – a 205 horsepower GT with auto gears and a bit of attitude.

Later this year a Sport Tourer estate joins the five-door hatch and 2017 sees a low emissions hybrid diesel/electric version and a pure diesel with two turbos and a healthy 165 horsepower.

Platform

Helping the new Megane feel grown up are front seats from the car mentioned at the top of this story – the car you've never heard of. In fact the Talisman donates much more than that to the common cause, including its engines and other oily bits you don't see.

Most important of all is the platform the car is built on. Again invisible to car buyers, this complicated piece of pressed, folded and welded metal costs billions to develop and sharing its start up investment makes everything more affordable. You will find it under most current and forthcoming Renault cars and lots of Nissans too, thanks to the 'strategic partnership' between the two giant automakers.

Bits that you can see that cost sharing has made more affordable are electronic features like a control centre letting you access everything from navigation (a TomTom system that is notably clear and easy to use) to phone, apps and radio.

Posher Meganes have a bigger touchscreen that mimics a smartphone or tablet with pinch and zoom movements, although these are best managed on smoother roads.

Depending on precise model you can use what Renault calls Multi-Sense technology to change, among other things, engine throttle response, steering weight, engine sound... even the hue of the interior lighting, perhaps opting for sporty red, eco green or comfort blue.

The new Megane has already taken a top marks five star safety rating in the official Euro test and Renault offers a full suite of driver assists from adaptive cruise control, through lane departure warning to overspeed prevention that reads traffic signs via a camera and slows you down to the legal limit. You can switch this and many other systems off if you're not in the mood.

First out driven was the £20,400 Dynamique S Nav dCi 110 diesel made a good initial impression, with much improved cabin quality over the old model and a cleanly minimalist feel to everything. Pulled well, too, and went quietly about the business of moving you about.

It was a quiet place to spend a couple of hours, though, and a trip computer showing 53.5mpg at journey's end promised an economical time for a longer term owner.

Jumping into the reigning flagship, a £25,500 GT Nav 205 EDC and tackling some demanding moorland roads (when the dozy sheep retreated far enough) produced more smiles than before, even if 27.3mpg was less cheering.

Much more supportive front seats, a generally well-behaved automatic dual-clutch six-speed gearbox and healthy dose of power turned the fuel dual from four to eight - Renault will surely produce a turn-to-even version in due course.

The petrol engine stayed quiet and well mannered and the ride stayed the right side of too firm, with crisp steering – aided by the rear tyres doing some of the turning via a four-wheel steering system that felt over-eager to start with – making this fastest new Megane (so far) a fine introduction to the fresh faced range.

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Megane's freshened up range pleasing

By Ian Donaldson

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Members of TP Riley-Norton Canes Badminton Club with chairman Chris Finch, right



Founding members Inez Edwards, Trevor Appleton and his wife Ros



Linzi Kernick from Cannock, who has represented England

Badminton aces still call the shots 40 years on

FOUR decades and a number of different homes later, TP Riley-Norton Badminton Club is still going strong.

Despite the popularity of the sport decreasing over the years, members of the club based at Erasmus Darwin Academy in Chasetown still get together every week, with five teams competing in the South Staffordshire Badminton League.

Formed on May 4, 1976, the club is fresh from celebrating its 40th anniversary and is far from done.

Chris Finch has been a member since 1986 and chairman for the best part of a decade. Founder members Ros Appleton and her husband Trevor, Inez Edwards and Kevin Gittus are all still involved as well.

"The competitive side of badminton, league badminton, has been declining for the last 10 to 15 years," said Finch.

Started

"It's all over the country, but I think we're the only club with five teams in the South Staffordshire Badminton League.

"We have three mixed teams. All three mixed teams were in Division One last season and that's the first time a club has had that many in the history of the league.

"We have a men's team who did well but finished second to Aston Villa, who are largely made up of Warwickshire county players.

"The ladies finished second in their league but there were only three teams, so everybody played each other four times.

"Next season, we are not sure whether there will be a ladies' league but they will still be able to play in the mixed league and the men's league as well if they wish."

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joe Edwards

"The competitive side of badminton, league badminton, has been declining for the last 10 to 15 years."

Going back to the late 70s, the club started out as Furzebank Badminton Club as it was based at Furzebank Community School, now called Willenhall E-ACT Academy.

To begin with, they had just one team in Division Seven of the South Staffordshire Badminton League but over time that number grew to 11, competing in both the SSBL and Stafford & District League, with some members also playing for other sides in the Cradley and Worcestershire leagues.

On September 12, 1990, the club moved to TP Riley Community School in Bloxwich and hence changed its name to TP Riley Badminton Club.

After 14 fruitful years there, the club had to move again due to the school becoming Walsall Academy and set up temporarily at a host of venues including Bloxwich Leisure Centre.

Ten years ago, they settled at Erasmus Darwin and in 2008 merged with Norton Canes Badminton Club to become TP Riley-Norton.

Some of Norton's longest-serving members such as Sue Benton, Paul Burton, Andy Reaney, Matt Brookes and Jonathan Hassall are still playing, with other members competing in the County and County

Veterans leagues. While many have stayed loyal to the club, there has been a lot of effort to get more youngsters through the ranks but with limited success.

"We have tried on quite a few occasions over the years to promote junior badminton," said Finch.

"We have done it time and time again but it never seems to generate the sorts of numbers you would think.

"What surprises people, though, is that the standard is very high. We get people aged around 25 to 30 enquiring all of the time and we'll ask 'have you played before?'

"They will be like 'I have played with my mates' then they come along and realise the standard we have here."

"We have got a few young guys who have been here for several months now and they're coming on well and pushing towards being in the men's team."

Enjoy

"We'd like more youngsters to come along through the summer. At our place we have four courts and through the summer there's usually a couple free, so we'd like them to come down and give it a try."

Competing in the SSBL with TP Riley-Norton are Cannock, Wolverhampton-based sides Tiki and Novus, and Three Spires from Lichfield.

Finch insists the members enjoy it as much as ever and there are plans in place to ensure the club keeps moving forward.

"All the club members are friends, we are mates, we love our badminton and then going for a drink together afterwards," he added.

"I'm still playing, and I'm 69, but I can't say I will personally be playing much longer."

"We all love the sport, that's why we are here still. There's a magical feeling you get when you're playing."



Chairman Chris Finch, aged 69 and Paul Burton, 60, who has been a member since the club's inception



TP Riley-Norton badminton player Jonathan Hassall



Honours are even in the derby match

Stourbridge 2 Halesowen Town 2
LUKE Benbow saved Glassboys from their early horror show in a frenetic Black Country barnstormer at Amblecote on Monday night.

Lee Chilton and Kyle Morrison put Halesowen two up inside five minutes but after Glassboys' boss Gary Hackett sacrificed Joe Hull and switched to a flat back four on 23 minutes, the hosts dominated and were level by the 56th minute thanks to Benbow's double.

Shell-shocked Yeltz creaked for the rest of the match and had 'keeper Dan Platt to thank for a share of the spoils.

Chilton latched on to a loose ball in the box to ram under Matt Gould from close range with 62 seconds on the clock. Stunned Stour were two down when Chilton's fierce corner was thumped home by Kyle Morrison at the far post.

Kaiman Anderson looped agonisingly over for Halesowen, who had a credible penalty appeal waved away when Jordan Goddard's stinging shot appeared to be handled in the box.

The tide turned with Stourbridge reducing the deficit with a penalty. Aaron Griffiths was punished for a tangle with Darryl Westlake and Benbow rifled home. The hosts levelled 11 minutes after the restart when Benbow was released after a quick throw to blast inside Platt's left post from 20 yards.

Stour went for the jugular with Chris Lait denied one-on-one by the feet of Platt. The Yeltz custodian then produced a flying one-handed stop from Green's point-blank header and repeated his antics from Leon Broadhurst's effort.

Stourbridge have been handed a trip to Evo-Stik League Premier Division rivals Ilkeston, in the third qualifying round of the FA Cup, after a 2-1 win at Mickleover. Halesowen, who beat Belper 1-0, face either fellow Evo-Stik Premier clubs Nantwich Town or Marine.

It's seven trophies on the bounce for town's swimmers

HALESOWEN Swimming Club travelled to Braunstone for the annual trophy gala on Saturday, defending the trophy and hoping to make it seven victories in a row.

After 10 events Halesowen were in front by three points with Braunstone A in second place but after 20 events Braunstone A had moved in front by two points and increased it to nine points after 30 races. But the Halesowen swimmers dug deep and won excellent individual races and the last four relay events to take the gala by five points.

Individual event winners were Josh Bradley (4x1 individual medley), Adam Ryan (50m backstroke), Ryan Larkin (100m backstroke), Jamie Worton (50m butterfly), Niamh Larkin (100m backstroke), Mark Lang (100m backstroke), Kate Morrice (100m freestyle), Jack Simpson (100m freestyle) and Amber Robbins (100m breaststroke). The relay teams won 10 of the 16 relay events.

Scores were Halesowen 275, Braunstone A 270, Melton Mowbray 220, Hinckley 191, Coalville 170, Market Harborough 158, Braunstone B 116.

Nuns prey on stunned Old Halesonians

Old Halesonians 3 Nuneaton 44

THE Wassell Grove side went into this game with great confidence following two league victories but it was the visitors who dominated almost from the kick-off.

Early pressure resulted in two converted tries within eight minutes. The Nuns' scrummage was strong and the combination play with quick backs took Hales by surprise. Hales' slack handling and penalties conceded gave Nuneaton a platform.

Injured Hales prop Adam Wilson was replaced by Matt Young and Ben Barkley came in for wing Jay Reid. Barkley took the centre position with

Andy Robinson and his brother Carl moving to the wing. Barkley took the game to Nuns but he alone could not turn the tide.

Nuneaton had breached the Hales defence several times to lead by 19 points. A consolation penalty by Chris Hooper made the score 3-22 at half time.

The second half saw Nuns pressuring Hales into mistakes. Ben Hughes sustained a knee injury and was replaced by Tom King, other injuries to Adam Clayton and Sam Jones blunted the competitive edge for Hales as well-organised Nuns side tightened their grip on the game with

Rugby

more tries.

Nuneaton scored six tries in a convincing victory with the home team having no answer.

Head coach Ben Hughes said: "Every player needs to take responsibility. We cannot explain how this happened given the preparation we have put in at training. We would like to apologise to our supporters."

Nuneaton Seconds beat their Old Hales counterparts 5-0 while Thirds won a closely-fought friendly with Bromsgrove Thirds 31-25.

'WE'LL DO IT NEXT SEASON'

HALESOWEN skipper Richard Brooker says the club will aim to go one better next season by winning promotion from Birmingham League Division Two - after missing out on the last day of the season.

Brooker says a lack of runs have been their downfall all season and on a tense day they lost at Wombourne.

Tamworth and Harborne finished above them, but Brooker insists they'll be back to fight another day, next spring.

He said: "We kept a close eye on the Tamworth encounter and although they proved deserved victors in their game we came up short with the bat against Wombourne, which ultimately has been our downfall this season.

"We will now take some time to reflect on the summer and look to go that one step further next season.

"We have had some outstanding moments this season with the Canterbury Cup win, the rise of some of younger players and just last week a full house at the training sessions even this late in the season.

"However, we have to take a leaf out of the successes of the clubs above us and learn from them for next year."

Meanwhile, the second team pulled off a fine win after looking set for defeat. Chasing down Moseley's 216-8 in 45 overs, the Halesowen team stumbled and stuttered their way to victory in a tense finale watched by a healthy crowd perched on the edge of their seats.

Finding themselves 133-7 with some 20 overs remaining, relegation from Premier Two looked reality as news broke that both Kidderminster and West Bromwich Dartmouth had won their matches. But heroes emerged with Imran Aslam (31) following up his 3-33 with the ball and then cameos from Alex Bullingham (6no) and Adam Hawker (15no) saw the team over the line in the September gloom.

The third team also won to retain their Worcester League status at Oldswinford, switching places with Alveley, who were relegated.

England World Cup call up



Stourbridge student Grace Smith joins the England squad in Jordan for the U17 girls' World Cup

STOURBRIDGE football star Grace Smith has been named in the England squad for the under-17s World Cup.

Aston Villa player Smith is studying A-levels at King Edward VI College, Stourbridge, and made her England debut last year.

The Bridgnorth girl plays in defence or midfield, was part of the young Lionesses squad that finished third in the European Championships earlier this year, thus guaranteeing their place in the tournament.

The World Cup will take place in Jordan from September 30 to October 21, featuring

more than 30 matches. England have been drawn in Group C alongside Brazil, Nigeria and North Korea. England's first group match is against North Korea at the King Abdullah II International Stadium in Amman on October 1.

This is the first England women's Under-17s side to qualify for the World Cup. The squad that competed in 2008 had been invited to the tournament and reached the semi-finals.

Smith started two group games at the Euros - the 12-0 battering of Belarus, where she scored twice - and the 4-3 semi-final defeat to Germany.

Heathens book place in play-offs

RESILIENT Cradley booked their place in the end of season play-offs with an impressive 53-37 home win over high-flying Kent.

Heathens wrapped up the points with a dominant end to a thrilling encounter.

Ashley Morris got his night off to a winning start before a crucial early 5-1 from the reserves gave Heathens the lead. Ben Basford was quick away from the tapes but a determined ride from Bradley Andrews saw him work his way from the back and blast around Kent's Danno Verge on the run to the line.

Ex-Heathens favourite Tom Perry, who was guesting for injured Luke Chessell, had an impressive first ride back in the red, green and white race jacket as he steamed underneath James Shanes into bend three on the second lap to net a share of the spoils.

Following a Kent 4-2 in the fifth, the Heathens responded with one of their own with a ruthless ride from Morris to squeeze out Danny Ayres down the back straight to block the run of the visiting No. 5 to take the chequered flag.

Three shared races followed before Cradley's lead was reduced to two points with Jack Thomas picking up a third while Shanes ended Morris' unbeaten run with a move around the outside away from gate four.

A 4-2 from Perry and Bradley Andrews gave the Heathens confidence and they sealed the deal in style with three 5-1s, two courtesy of Clegg and Morris, after making the most of winning the toss for gate positions at the start of the meeting.

Local rivals Birmingham have picked Cradley in the semi-finals of the play-offs. The first leg will be held at Perry Barr on Wednesday, September 28 with the return at Monmore on Monday, October 10.

Strollers South team step up for trophy

HARTSHILL Strollers will soon need a bigger trophy cabinet after winning yet another walking football tournament.

The club's South team lifted the cup at the second annual event organised by Dudley Council.

The South team beat Birmingham WFC's Blues team 1-0 in the final of the five-a-side tournament held at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge. Rob Dunning scoring. Birmingham WFC is the new name of Beechcroft. Hartshill North team reached the semis but were knocked out by their club mates in a penalty shoot-out. Strollers' home is Summerville School, Kingswinford.

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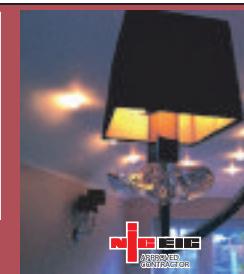
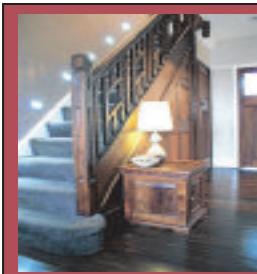
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